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

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## EDITORIAL

This is the month when many are looking forward to heading off somewhere exotic for their summer holidays. Following the recent burglaries in Stansted it's even more important to ensure your property is securely locked, even when out in the garden, and to make arrangements for a trusted neighbour or friend to keep an eye on your home while you're away. For those staying put there's lots going on locally (see page 5) and for a suggested alternative to the traditional day trip to the seaside see page 15.

The development debate goes on with a decision on the Elms Farm proposal, see page 20, which could still be reversed on appeal. It's probably inevitable that Stansted will have to accommodate more new housing in time, so it's up to us to make our views known and have some sort of say as to exactly where, and how many houses will be built. The hope is that the extra services needed locally to cope with an increase in our population will be in place before building starts. So, through the summer months get out and about and enjoy the beautiful rural landscape in and around our village – while it's still there!

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**Stansted network** is compiled by  
Stansted Mountfitchet Parish  
Council.

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

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

One of my favourite places is the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. I have visited it many times – sometimes alone and sometimes with groups. Holy Island is sometimes called the 'cradle island' because it was the place from which Christianity spread into England. Holy Island's most famous Saint was Cuthbert, in whose memory a beautiful book of the gospels was made – the Lindisfarne Gospels. This magnificent hand written and beautifully illuminated book is normally hidden away in the British Library, but will be on display in Durham Cathedral this summer. One of the things I love about Holy Island is that it is a tidal island. When the tide is out you can drive over the causeway and onto the island. When the tide is out it is a busy place, especially in the summer. Coach-loads of day trippers fill the island to visit its castle and abbey ruins. Then shortly before the tide comes in all the coaches depart. The sea surrounds the island and peace descends.

Holy Island has a rhythm to it which is set by the tide. Perhaps that is why Aidan chose it in the first place. When the tide is in there is time for silence, time for thinking, time for prayer. It is this peace that makes Holy Island a 'thin place', a place where the walls between heaven and earth are narrow. All of us need such 'thin times' and 'thin places'. The constant busyness and unceasing pressure of daily life can simply wear us out. We may not be able to go to a place where the tide enforces such rhythm on us, so instead we need to make it for ourselves. So why not turn off the TV, the computer and the 'phone and try praying?



Rev'd Paul Wilkin  
Rector of St John's



## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG  
Tel :814059  
[lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for July

7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions  
14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion  
21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Mike Render  
28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble

We are sorry to announce the death of our oldest member, John Dyer, aged 97, who moved to Stansted in 2010 to be near his son Michael. John attended church when he was able, and got to know everyone. He will be sadly missed.

### The Place on the Hill

Our drop-in every Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm is proving so popular, with new visitors arriving every week, that we are planning to also open on Fridays from September. More details next month. All are welcome.



# Shalom

Our last meeting for this term is our party, 8.00pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane

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

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

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment



## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The first draws for the new year of the 300 Club, which were held at the end of May, brought an unusual result in that one especially lucky member had both of her numbers drawn on the same day! The results were as follows:

£100	No 9 - Sam Longbottom
£ 50	No 130 - Katy Dockerill
£ 25	No 8 - Sam Longbottom

The draws for July, which will include the extra bi-annual draw for **£200**, will be carried out on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers are still available for anyone who may wish to join at a cost of £2 per month per number. Please contact me for an application form if you are interested.

Francine Cope  
Tel: 814562

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

**Rector:** Rev'd Paul Wilkin  
Tel: 812203  
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**Director of Music:** Anne Brooks  
Email: [anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk)

**Church Hall Bookings:** Susie Ball  
Tel or text: 07972 373994  
Email: [stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.hallbookings@gmail.com)

### St John's Diary

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

### Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer  
**Tuesday**  
9.00am St John's Tots  
**Wednesday**  
9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Holy Communion

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.

### Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The remainder of our May openings and the first in June were not as well supported as I had hoped, but on the plus side we are now having people who are new to the village visiting us. I am pleased to announce that there is going to be an afternoon Tea Party at the Windmill, with tea and cakes etc plus an opportunity to look around our ancient monument - a lovely way to spend a summer afternoon. More details in the August edition of The Link. Plans for the August Bank Holiday Windmill Fete are gathering pace and the Pre-Fete Windmill meeting will take place on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. The Mill will be open on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

Molly Clark  
Co-Trustee  
Tel: 816768

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### May

#### Baptisms

19<sup>th</sup> Freya Cecilia Hilda Mills

#### Funerals

10<sup>th</sup> Agnes 'Molly' Belcher - at St Mary's followed by cremation at Parndon Wood  
23<sup>rd</sup> Robert Cole - at Parndon Wood

## LINK ADVERTISING

During July we will be contacting our existing advertisers to see if they wish to renew their advertisement for our new printing year which begins in November. We will also be taking bookings from new advertisers.

Our prices are being held this year.

Colour ads start from as little as £400, and black and white from £125 for the whole year!

Please visit [www.stanstedlink.org.uk](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk) for a price list and booking form or if you do not have internet access call Marion on 814059

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

# St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



*Learning together we care, share and prepare*

St Mary's is back in The Link! The school has had a busy and eventful six months settling into our new premises at Hampton Road on Foresthall Park. There have been very few teething troubles – the move itself went smoothly, we are all now used to how things work and the learning and working environment is much improved for everyone in the school. The main hitch has been with the very sensitive alarm system, and we do apologise to neighbours for night-time disturbances. This is being addressed as an on-going matter of importance and will be resolved as soon as we can achieve it. One concern before we moved was that the walk to church would be too long. In fact it is quite straightforward for pupils of all ages, and we managed it successfully for our Easter service. Our curriculum has been an exciting one over the winter and spring terms including visits and visitors to the school to enrich the themes the children have studied. Pupils have been to Crossing Temple Barns as part of a topic on Tudor England, to the Globe Theatre for workshops on Shakespeare, had circus skills training in school and a day experiencing life at the time of the Great Fire of London. We have had theme weeks, sports events and fundraising days for Children in Need and Red Nose Day. The summer term included visits to study habitats and environmental issues at Wandlebury Park. We also began our Eco-schools project, led by the site manager, Mr Wallis. We enjoyed Sports Day, the Key Stage 2 production and also the Leavers' production. The summer term is a busy time for staff too, writing reports and completing the analysis of all the data collected over the year and reporting on the school's performance.

St Mary's would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the Co-op in Stansted for their support (and delicious breakfast goodies) for Crunchy Munch Breakfast Club run by Mrs Helen Pawsey. Their contributions and Helen's work for our pupils is much appreciated. And finally, I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all the staff, Governors and parents of St Mary's for their support and hard work for the school over the past year – a momentous one for the school as we moved into our fourth home in Stansted since the school began in 1835. Have a restful and enjoyable summer break!

We are looking forward to welcoming another full cohort of 45 pupils to the school in September. Their transition programme was very successful in making sure the children are familiar with their new classrooms and teachers. If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. We will be having Open Mornings during October for parents applying for Reception places for 2014. Posters will be in the village and details will be with pre-schools early in the new school year.

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher

## **PTFA Summer Fayre Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 1.00pm-4.00pm**

Come and have some fun whilst helping to raise money for PTFA funds. See page 5 for more details.



As you all know, over the last couple of months we have been requesting volunteers to come forward to join your Stansted and District NCT Committee to help organise and co-ordinate the monthly events for the children and carers and look after the administrative roles that a busy NCT branch commands. I am pleased to announce that at our last monthly Committee meeting we welcomed three new volunteers who have taken on roles within the branch. Samantha Cherill agreed to take on the treasurer role, Sarah McDonald will be looking after the hiring of the electronic breast pump for local mums and Clare Howatson will fulfil the role of membership and bumps and babes co-ordinator. It is fantastic that we have had such a great response, we still have roles available within the branch, so please let me know if you are interested in getting involved in our team.

We are looking forward to welcoming the summer sun finally and have arranged outside activities ready for the warm weather we are sure will come our way. Our Tea and Toys this month will see local photographer, Yvonne Lorraine, who specialises in maternity and new born photography, taking bookings for children's portrait shots. All the sittings are free; you just have to pay for any images that you like and subsequently buy. This session is not for family shots, Yvonne will be back later on in the year to take family shots for those that would like. To book your place contact either me or our Facebook page. Please remember that all our activities are open for members and non-members.

Additional events being held this month:

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am-11.30am** St John's Church Hall

For all pre-schoolers – Tea and Toys with photographer

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00am** For all pre-schoolers – Paddling Pool Fun at Bishops Stortford Paddling Pool

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July from 8.00pm** For Parents or Carers – Social Branch Meeting. Please call for details.

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July from 8.00pm** For all Parents and Carers – Meal at Lower Street Brassiere. Please call to confirm.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00am**

For all ages – Tumbledowns Soft Play Saffron Walden

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 11.00am** For all ages - Cammas Hall Fruit Farm meet in car park. Bring your own picnic.

Anna Sedgbeer  
Tel: 812257

## **PLEASE SAVE YOUR EMPTY BABY WIPES PACKETS!**

We are collecting the packets (any brand) to give to a Brain Tumour research charity who get 2p for each pack from their local recycling company. We need to save 4kg by the end of the year, so please spread the word, and help us to hit our target so that we are able to support this important research fundraising. Please drop the empty packets off at Sunnyside Childcare, 43 Sunnyside, or to Sunnyside Playgroup on Monday mornings in St John's Hall, or St John's Church itself whenever it is open. Thank you to everyone who is already saving - it is very much appreciated. Please feel free to contact me for further details.

Rachel and Olly Pocknell  
Tel: 816215

Email: [rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk](mailto:rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk)



## Green Waste Skip Dates

Lower Street Car Park  
Saturdays 9 am - 3 pm

6th & 20th July  
3rd, 17th & 31st Aug  
14th & 28th Sep



## Summer Soirée

by talented young musicians

6 pm Saturday 6th July  
St John's Church

Tickets must be purchased in advance from:  
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Stansted Windmill  
Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm  
Sun 7th July

St Mary's Church open for teas

2 - 5 pm  
Sun 7th July



St Mary's Church also open daily

## VILLAGE EVENTS

### July

2	Tue	Is Stansted Well Read Book Group	Dog & Duck 8 pm
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
5	Fri	NCT Tea & Toys with photographer	St John's Hall 10 - 11.30 am
6	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Stansted Summer Fayre	Station Road 10 am - 2 pm
		Music@stansted Soirée	St John's Church 6 pm
7	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		St Mary's Church open & teas	2 - 5 pm
8	Mon	Shalom Party	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
11	Thu	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before 12 noon</b>
		WI	Day Centre 7.45 pm
12	Fri	Spangles Baby Time starts	Spangles Centre 10 am - noon
13	Sat	Summer Fayre	St Mary's School 1 - 4 pm
		Day Centre 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fayre	Day Centre 2 - 5 pm
14	Sun	Boot Sale	Farnham School 10 am - noon
		S W Choral Society Concert	Thaxted Church 7.30 pm
18	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
20	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
		Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		Community Roadshow	Mountfitchet Estate 12 - 4 pm
24	Wed	Stansted Lunch Group	Bury Lodge 12.30 for 1 pm
26	Fri	Fish and Chip Friday	Day Centre 12.30 pm
28	Sun	Grand Opening Day	Broome End 12 - 4 pm
30	Tue	NCT Outing	Cammas Hall Fruit Farm 11 am

*Hargrave House Summer Fête 6th July has been cancelled*

St Mary's School PTFA

Summer Fayre

1 - 4 pm Sat 13th July

Donkey Rides ~ Welly Wanging-  
Face Painting ~ Kids Rounders  
Bouncy Castle ~ Ice Cream & Bar  
Bake Off Competition

Entry Adult 50p ~ children **free**

The Crafton Room (Day Centre)

Celebrating 30 years

**Summer Fayre**

2 - 5 pm Sat 13th July

Homemade Cream Teas  
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All Welcome - Come & Join Us



## Stansted Family Café

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Recreation Ground

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## COMMUNITY ROADSHOW

12 - 4 pm Sat 20th July

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FARNHAM SCHOOL

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**Sunday 14th July**

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Email: Emma-egdesign@hotmail.co.uk  
or Melanie 07981 967423

Email: melanie.wells@live.co.uk

Refreshments

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12 - 4 pm Sun 28<sup>th</sup> July

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**Activities for the whole family**

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## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10.00 am - Noon Sat 20th July

Ugley Village Hall

*Meat ~ Poultry ~ Eggs ~ Honey*

*Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Cheese*

*Fruit & Veg ~ Plants ~ Skincare*

*Crafts ~ Cards*

**Refreshments with cake and bacon rolls**



at the  
Thaxted Festival

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7.30 pm Sun 14th July

**Thaxted Parish Church**

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the osteopath

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## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Our Club received good news from the Football Association confirming that by demonstrating the hard amount of work undertaken this year the Club would retain its Senior Step 5 status for the upcoming season. This wonderful news has given the Club fresh impetus to kick on and plan our preparations for both our First and Reserve teams to compete in the Essex Senior League. The added advantage of retaining Step 5 is that we are once again eligible to enter the FA Cup Competition. We are also pleased to announce that an ex-Stansted Player, Mark Saggars, has agreed to join our Management Team. Mark will bring a great deal of experience as he has been involved in local football at our level for a number of years now, and we will be able to tap into this knowledge as he will be working with our younger members of the squad.

Pre-season training will commence on 3<sup>rd</sup> July for all players; we also wish to invite players new to our Club especially young footballers who have now grown out of Youth Team football and are looking to continuing playing at a high level. Remember three years ago Dwight Gayle was Stansted's top goal scorer, now we see reports that he could be a Premier-ship player next season, evidence that this level of football gives players an ambition to aim for. For details of our training sessions please check the Club website, our Facebook, or alternatively call me on the number below.

Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



I am hoping that by the time you read this, we will have two new noticeboards for the development. One will be located on Walsong Way by the bus stop next to the bridleway/ children's playground and the other will be on the bridleway close to the bottom of Bentley Drive. There is an existing noticeboard at the top of the alleyway into Stoney Common so the main routes in and out of the development should now have a noticeboard in a prominent position. These noticeboards can be used by anyone to promote community/charitable groups and events. If you put a notice up, then please remember to take it down once the event has passed. I will see if I can source an up-to-date map of the development and put that up too.

It is my understanding that the 'urban square' (Hampton Road, by the school) should be completed by mid-July. Despite the description, it will be mainly grass and bring a much needed green space to Foresthall Park (please view the 09/06/13 post on our website if you want to see the plans). I believe that the Parish Council intends to call this space 'Rochford Square' in recognition of the land (Rochford Nurseries) upon which the Foresthall Park development has been built.

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

## THE CRAFTON ROOM

[www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk](http://www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk)

July is to be an exciting but busy month for us here at the Crafton Room. Over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating the much anticipated 30 year anniversary of our wonderful facility. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> between 2.00pm and 5.00pm we, with help from other village organisations, are holding a Fayre, open to everyone. We will be offering homemade cream teas, cake stall, garden stall, bric-a-brac, book stall, tombola, raffle and more besides. So why don't you come and join us for what should be a lovely afternoon? On the Sunday we will be having a private buffet lunch for all the fantastic people who have been involved over the years in making the Day Centre the place it is today.



On the subject of celebrating, we have also been lucky enough to have received one of the Daniel Robinson Community Awards. This money will enable us to finish our garden which is already being enjoyed, and looking fabulous. Special thanks must go to David and Sandra for all their hard work. We would also like to thank Lee and his carer, Amelia who came for the day from Home Farm Trust to help with the planting; also all the people still so generously giving us plant donations – we never know what surprises we are going to find waiting for us in the garden!



Don't forget that besides all this lunch is served on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at a cost of £5.00, and Fish and Chip Friday is on 26<sup>th</sup> July this month - £ 7.50 including raffle ticket. This day is becoming increasingly popular so please book your place early. For further information please see our website or feel free to call for more details. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Julie Beck  
Centre Manager  
Tel: 815091

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www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

We have had our Funday and we were so lucky with the weather. We would like to thank all the volunteers for the support they gave manning stalls, helping to set up and clear away, and the following for donations or allowing us to borrow equipment:

- The Kings Arms
- The Cock
- Connect Scaffolding
- Yeomans
- Co-Op
- St Marys Primary School PTA
- 2Dive 4
- Phoenix Trading
- Tesco Stansted
- Annie Nucky Jenkins
- Intercountry
- The South Family

Thanks also to Kaz and the Zumba team, Graham School of Dance, Jo Jingles, Little Scrummers and Little Kickers for their displays.

The good news is our caterpillars did turn in to butterflies and have now been released into the garden. Our mystery eggs have now hatched into (not dinosaurs or spiders as some predicted!) but stick insects; they are quite small at the moment and are very hard to see. For our older group children it is their final few weeks with us and the team are busy preparing them for their move to 'big' school in September. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising five. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2013 and 2014 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove  
Administrator  
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

## RAINBOW TOTS

We are a friendly Mother and Toddler group for children aged 18 months until they go on to nursery/preschool generally about three years of age. Charlotte and Yvette and I run the session on Wednesday mornings 10.00am to 11.30am at the Friends' Meeting House, Chapel Hill, term time only. The group has been running for 11 years, with the overall aim to promote the learning and development of a child, supported by the actions of a parent or carer in a stimulating environment. However, we want you to come and have **FUN** with your child whilst painting, glueing, playing in the sand or water, or squeezing and rolling play dough! (Not so messy activities are provided as well!) For the group to continue we need more children - term starts on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. We do run a waiting list for those children that are still too young to attend. If you are interested please call me for further information.

Tina South  
Tel: 814371



## STANSTED SCOUTS

### Raft Race

On a recent pleasant Sunday morning we took two teams down to Skreens Park, where we met up with nine other teams for a raft race. There were a variety of raft designs on display this year. The race is over two runs about an hour apart, and our B team came in 4<sup>th</sup> while our A team came 2<sup>nd</sup>, only 20 seconds behind the winners.



### District Camp

Every May Bank Holiday weekend we have our annual District Camp in Hatfield Forest where we join others from our District. This year only eight of our Scouts decided to take part - well done you eight. On a damp Friday evening, our canvas home for the weekend rapidly took shape. By 8.00pm the tents, loo tent and dining shelter were up. Activities started at 9.30pm just as the rain departed. The next three days' action took place in the sun. The aerial runway is always popular, as is the archery and air rifles, and in the sun anything that involves water! The Scouts have to cook all their own meals outside and take part in the cooking competition, which we won last year, and I am pleased to say we retained the shield, thanks to the stunning lemon cheesecake (which I still have not tasted). Eight tired but happy Scouts left the Forest on Monday afternoon having gained their Outdoor Challenge awards. Some of the skills learnt will be used at our next camp, which is by the river near Thetford in July.

### Joe's Gold

Congratulations to Joe Wilson for gaining his Chief Scout's Gold award, the highest award in the Scout section. Joe has



taken part in a wide variety of camps, activities and challenges at Troop, District and County level over the last four years, resulting in the completion of eight of the nine Challenge Awards. His Outdoor Plus was gained at our recent District Camp at Hatfield Forest. He still intends to gain the ninth and final award before he leaves us in the summer to join Explorers. Well done Joe.

Mike Byrne  
Scout Leader  
Tel: 812780

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## ROTARY CLUB OF STANSTED STORT VALLEY

Towards the end of each Rotary year, clubs hold an assembly when the President Elect informs members of his plans and aspirations for the coming year. President David Scott opened by thanking members for his opportunity over two years to lead our Club's rebirth. He referred to our new style of club, the broader hands-on projects reach we now have within the community and the high profile we display. President Elect Colin George thanked David saying we now have the opportunity to build on solid foundations and the values of fellowship and concern for others. He then delivered a presentation of his plans for the evolution of the Club in his Presidential Year. He concluded by saying his aspiration was that we would continue to learn and respond to the needs of others, with a strong sense of belonging - a Club that we all feel proud to belong to, where our ideas and contribution really count.

Colin George OBE is married to Joan, who is also a Club member, and they have three children and four grandchildren. He is a Human Resources professional trained in the UK and USA. His career included companies with household names such as Rio Tinto, British Leyland and Guinness and, as well as holding Human Resources Directorships, he was Managing Director for several years. In retirement Colin has



had varied senior non-executive roles in a wide range of organisations including the National Trust, the Further Education Council, Legal Aid Board, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, Relate (he had trained as a counsellor in his younger days) and Chair of the Open College and Lifelong Learning Foundation. He is also a Governor of Freeman College in Buntingford. He has even found time to coach/mentor chief executive officers and human resources directors. Both Joan and Colin are regular golfers at Hanbury Manor and he and Joan, who have lived in the area for 30 years, moved to 'downtown' Bishop's Stortford three years ago.

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

Peter Latham  
Tel: 507294



### SWCS Perform the Final Concert of Thaxted Festival in Thaxted Parish Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

The choir is performing Edward Elgar's 'The Dream of Gerontius' with conductor Janet Wheeler and the Chameleon Arts Orchestra. Tickets: unreserved £16, concessions £13 (all reserved seats are sold out) from SWCS Ticket Secretary on 812849, SWCS members, Saffron Walden TIC and Thaxted Festival on 01371 831421.

Liz Jennings  
SWCS Press Officer  
Tel: 07720 567922  
Email: [pressofficer@swchoral.org.uk](mailto:pressofficer@swchoral.org.uk)



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Our next meeting is Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July in St John's Church Hall. Doors open 1.30pm, the meeting starting at 2.00pm and the speaker is Chris Dingley, giving a presentation entitled 'Tax, Care and Toy Boys'. Mmmm ... interesting! Cherry returns to the Committee as Activities Co-ordinator and hopes to meet with all the groups over the coming months; she is available on 817140. After the AGM the other members remain the same.

### Southend and High Society

Guffaws at the mention of the above in the same breath? If so, think again. On arrival in Southend on a chilly but dry morning, the party dispersed cheerfully into the foray of 21<sup>st</sup> century delights - beach-front cafés, debonair Debenhams or the end of the pier for tea and coffee? Some did a little shopping, others took a bracing walk along the pier (some returning by train), and some took a stroll among the colourful cliff gardens now restored after the recent devastating landslide. For many, lunch included excellent fish and chips. Afterwards off to Westcliff's Cliff Pavilion Theatre to watch the touring musical of 'High Society', a true West End performance of singing, dancing and the romantic music of Cole Porter. Michael Praed (remember Robin of Sherwood?) - what a treat! Later emerging from the theatre into brilliant sunshine with spectacular views of the Thames Estuary and across to Kent. So, although there can still be a kiss-me-quick and fish 'n' chip Southend, also available is the vibrant university town with great shopping, beautiful parks and gardens and top class entertainment and, of course, the longest pier in the world. As ever, another great trip. Thank you, Jan, for the write-up.

### Groups

Many of the groups have been out and about making the most of the improving weather. See the website if you would like to join the walking or the natural history group to enjoy and learn more about the local environment.

### Forthcoming Outings

One single space is still available for the Isle of Wight trip in September at a cost of £195pp. Please contact Maggie 503848 or Jan 812481.

The August meeting will be an informal one with several groups showcasing their work. Tea and biscuits will be available with the chance to chat to friends. Non-members would be most welcome to see what there is available to view and to join. Visit our website for full details [www.stanstedu3a.org](http://www.stanstedu3a.org) or please contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore

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'A sedate summer bike ride from London to Stansted (Linden House) along the towpaths through the scenic Lea and Stort Valleys' – or at least that was how I promoted this 40 mile bike ride in aid of St Mary's Primary School. As we approached 18<sup>th</sup> May the weather forecast was looking decidedly miserable and I wondered if I might be fodder for the next scandalous miss-selling headline but fortunately, as the day of the event dawned, it looked like we would get lucky and at least avoid the rain. The ride started from Spitalfields Market and 29 parents, friends and MAMILs (Google it) of St Mary's gathered there for 'le grand depart'. We set off promptly at 11.15am and made our way towards Limehouse where we picked up the towpath along the Regents Canal. This would usually be very busy but the cooler weather meant it was a little quieter, so we made good progress up to Victoria Park and then along the Hertford Union Canal which links up with the River Lea at the Olympic Park (or Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to give it its full name). Once on this section, we were able to keep up a fair lick – albeit interrupted with a few punctures along the way. Thankfully, we had some cycling royalty in our group as Nick Thake (of CycleKing), ably assisted by JC Duflox, were able to sort these problems out with F1 pit crew efficiency.



We stopped to 'refuel' at The Crown in Broxbourne, which marked the half-way point, and after a short break the peloton was anxious to get moving again before the muscles stiffened or we got too comfortable. We soon switched on to the River Stort and, for those of you not familiar with the route, although flat for the most part, the towpath deteriorates beyond Harlow Mill where it gets a lot bumpier. I say flat for the most part because the 'mountain stage' awaited us just past Bishop's Stortford. It is an unlucky quirk of geography that meant the only hills on the route lay between Stortford and Stansted (especially if you followed the designated route up Hazelend Road) and our finish point, Linden House, sits at the top of Chapel Hill, the highest point in Stansted! As the organiser, my apologies to the riders for the tough finish but I think those grumbles were soon put aside with Linden House's hospitality and the warmth of the welcome from our friends and family that came out to meet us (even though the first thing I heard from my children as I got off my bike was "Have you got any treats for us?").

The first riders made it back about 4.00pm with the stragglers coming in just before 5.00pm. In total, we covered 1160 miles between us and had six punctures along the way. My thanks to all those that helped make this day such a success – St Mary's School, The PTFA, Linden House, CycleKing, Rob Aberly for his tech skills, the Friday bike couriers, ride guides and volunteer bike mechanics on the day; but perhaps most importantly, I need to say thank you to those people who sponsored us and helped us raise over £4,000 which will go towards funding some much needed equipment for the school that will benefit all the pupils now and for many years to come. For my part, what started off as a simple idea became quite a logistical exercise - planning the route, getting bikes to London, train disruption, last minute route closures and so on. However, the money raised and the enthusiasm generated leading up to and during the event made it all worthwhile and there is even talk of another ride next year - we might need to up the ante ...

Stephen Berry  
Organiser

On behalf of the PTFA and the pupils and staff of St Mary's School I would like to add a huge thank you to everyone who took part in the cycle ride. Your efforts have helped raise such a wonderful amount of money. Of course a thank you also goes to all those who sponsored the riders. I'm sure as this goes to press the order for some fantastic new items for the school has already been placed. As Justine McMahon, the Chair of the School's Governing Body, said "It is precisely this kind of community spirit and personal commitment that makes a difference to the education of all the children." Thank you.

Nicola Ward  
PTFA Chair

## STOP PRESS

It has been reported that bogus door-to-door sellers claiming to be on an ex-offenders scheme, nicknamed the 'Nottingham Knockers' because that's where the scam started, have been operating in Stansted. They're attempting to sell cleaning products and cloths etc. The police advise residents to refrain from buying at the doorstep, and if you're approached by a 'Nottingham Knocker' please inform the police on 101.

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## ST JOHN'S FÊTE BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 27TH MAY

In 2012, St John's Church decided to hold a Funday on 4<sup>th</sup> June as the culmination of their Jubilee Flower Festival. It was a wonderful community event and was such a success that it was decided to do it again this year on the Late May Bank Holiday. Like 2012, the weather leading up to the weekend was less than favourable but, almost as if in answer to prayer, the day dawned bright and sunny and promised to be a perfect spring day – if a bit blustery!



There were even more representatives from the local community than in 2012, including the WI, The Bowling Club, U3A and Stansted Millers.

Everyone was well catered for by refreshments in the Church Hall, an ice-cream van and a wonderful barbecue manned by that renowned St John's double act of Peter Ballard and Matthew Jessup! (See top right.)



Lots of St John's people worked very hard to make it such a success, but most of all, huge thanks must go to Pauline Mantle who organised the whole event and did a marvellous job.

The fantastic sum of almost £1,200 was raised for church funds.

Janet Wilkin  
Tel: 812203

Photographs by Yvonne Ayres and Janet Wilkin



## A DAY OUT IN ELY

Summer is here - it's time to plan days out with family and friends! Ely, an hour's drive from Stansted, is a beautiful city, steeped in history and rich in culture. It has a diverse range of sights and attractions to suit everyone's taste. Parking is easy and mostly free of charge! The historical figure, Oliver Cromwell lived in Ely and his home is the location for the Ely Tourist Information Centre (TIC), an interactive attraction in itself. It is the only house remaining, other than Hampton Court, where Oliver Cromwell and his family are known to have lived.

### Ely Museum

Ely Museum is located in the Bishop's Gaol in the centre of Ely. The Museum is the history centre for the Isle of Ely and the Fens and it takes you on a journey through time from prehistory to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Displays include original prison cells, fossils that can be touched, Roman remains and an archive film of the Fens, including punt guns and eel catching. There is also a programme of special events and temporary exhibitions running throughout the year.

Website: [www.elymuseum.org.uk](http://www.elymuseum.org.uk)

### Trails

There are numerous self-guided trails, suitable for walkers (and some for cyclists), varying in length and points of interest. The trails are arguably the best way to explore and discover Ely. One of the most popular is the Ely Eel Heritage trail. Ely is very proud of its connection with eels and it is thought that the town's name is derived from the Isle of Eels when Ely was surrounded by water and marshland. The



trail starts at Oliver Cromwell House and takes in some of the notable attractions; the Waterside, the Babylon Gallery, The Maltings, the Jubilee Gardens

and finally, Cherry Hill Park. Following the trail is easy - it is marked by 70 way markers set in the ground with pictures of eels engraved into brass. Guides can be picked up from the TIC or downloaded in PDF from the TIC website: [www.visitely.org.uk/tic/visitor-information](http://www.visitely.org.uk/tic/visitor-information).

There are a couple of spy trails - one for young children which can be completed in 30 minutes, the guide for which is free to download from the TIC website. Another, longer Spy trail is available for download or by post and costs £6.99. This trail is for older children and adults and is just under two miles in distance. You should allow approximately two hours to complete it. These trails are exciting, keeping young minds engaged by exploration through clue-searching! The ground underfoot is good throughout and is considered suitable for both pushchairs and wheelchairs. [www.treasuretrails.co.uk/cambridgeshire](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk/cambridgeshire)

### Ely Riverside

The waterside in Ely is abuzz with activity. You can enjoy a boat trip, take a riverside walk or listen to music in the neighbouring Jubilee Gardens. Apart from the region's larg-

est antique centre, the Riverside is home to a variety of eateries. Whether it is a glass of wine, a light lunch, a pint of



traditional ale, a gourmet meal or a cream tea at the best tearooms in the country, as voted by the Tea Guild 2007, Ely's waterfront has it all. You may be tempted to try Eel Stew or Eel Pie available on the menu of one of the local pubs! Boat trips are

available with Ely Lynn Union River Cruises, telephone: 07927 390380

### Cathedral/Stained Glass Museum

The magnificent Ely Cathedral dominates the skyline and towers across the fens for miles around, known locally as the 'Ship of Fens', famous for its unique Octagon Tower, and Stained Glass Museum, the only national museum of its kind, where children can design patterns with glass on a light box, follow a trail and complete activity sheets. There is currently an exhibition of Francis Spear - eminent 20<sup>th</sup> century stained glass artist - until 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

Websites: [www.cathedral.ely.anglican.org](http://www.cathedral.ely.anglican.org)  
[www.stainedglassmuseum.com](http://www.stainedglassmuseum.com)

### Ghost Tours

While Ely appears peaceful and charming with its quaint tea shops, markets and riverside tranquillity, behind the doorways and passages throughout the Medieval city there are stories of murder, intrigue and mystery, not easily explained as mere tricks of the light, making Ely the most haunted small city in Europe. To experience the haunted past of Ely you can join an ever-popular ghost tour, pre-booking essential, for groups of 15 or more. Similarly, there are the *Haunted Happenings at the House* and *What the Nightwatchman Saw* tours. Details from the Ely TIC.

### July in Ely - Events

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Folk Festival - Tickets for individual days/weekend. Tel: 07500 527334 or email: [queries@elyfolkfestival.co.uk](mailto:queries@elyfolkfestival.co.uk) for details. Website: [www.elyfolkfestival.co.uk](http://www.elyfolkfestival.co.uk)

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> - Flower, Food and Craft Market 10.00am-4.00pm

If in doubt about where to go in Ely, truly the most efficient place to start is the TIC, tel: 01353 662062 or email: [tic@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:tic@eastcambs.gov.uk).

Anna Nolan



**RED CROSS WEEK**  
5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Thank you to everyone who supported this collection in the village. A total of £1143.00 was raised and we are grateful to all the collectors who so generously gave their time for this. Thank You Everyone.

Christine Stiles

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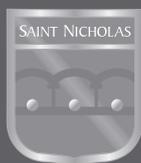
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## BEES CAN'T READ!

This month I can say categorically that bees can't read. If they could, they wouldn't be behaving as mine have done this spring. All the books say that the queen will start laying around 2500 eggs per day from early spring onwards. This can lead to overcrowding in the hive, and this causes the queen to send out signals that she will be leaving the colony to start a new one elsewhere. To enable her to do this the existing colony needs a new queen. The colony has three days after the queen lays an egg to decide whether to develop an ordinary worker egg into a queen. To develop a queen they start feeding royal jelly to the chosen eggs (about three or four normally), and in a couple of weeks new queens will emerge. This is then the signal for the old queen to fly off with thousands of flying bees (a swarm) to find a new home. The new queens then fight amongst themselves until one survives (good old Darwin). It is the only time a queen stings, to eliminate her rivals. The existing colony continues with a new queen, and the old queen starts a new colony elsewhere. Beekeepers try to avoid swarms as it reduces the size of their colonies and reduces honey yield. They do this by providing plenty of space in the hive, or making an 'artificial swarm' by taking the existing queen from the colony, and using her to start a new one in another hive. The existing colony then thinks the old queen has swarmed (aha!) and produces a new queen. This works providing you are clever enough to anticipate the queen's actions before they happen – Bee against Man, what could be more exciting! This is very beneficial as it provides new colonies for bee keepers, without major losses of bees from existing colonies.

This year all the bee press said the season was a month late, so although I gave my bees plenty of space, I did not anticipate they would produce new queens and want to swarm so



early. So what did they do? They swarmed (see picture) not only once, but four times, which is unheard of. In other words, four new queens had been produced under my nose. They did not fight to the finish as the book says, but each swarmed and took a lot of bees with them. Clearly they hadn't read the same book as me. Luckily, we managed to save two of the swarms and produce two new colonies (with the help of our understanding neighbours who let us know about the swarms as we were on holiday). On the subject of swarms, they can be intimidating, but the bees gorge themselves with honey beforehand as they don't know when they will eat again, so they are not aggressive. If you do see a swarm, enjoy a wonder of nature, then go to our

website: [www.stortfordbees.org.uk/swarms](http://www.stortfordbees.org.uk/swarms) or call one of our swarm officers on 842867 or 842283 who will come and collect the swarm free of charge. He will then give it to one of our bee keepers to nurture into a new colony. You will be participating in another way to help sustain the bee population.

John Dockerill

Email: [training@stortfordbees.org.uk](mailto:training@stortfordbees.org.uk)



There is pressure from Stansted owners Manchester Airports Group (MAG) to reduce rail journey times between the airport and Liverpool Street from the present average of 47 minutes, to 30 minutes. In a letter to Transport Secretary, Patrick McLoughlin, we stated that although we agree there is a pressing need for improved capacity and reliability on the West Anglia main line, we feel that to reduce the journey time from Stansted Airport to central London by 17 minutes is unrealistic within the present service pattern. Our concern is that MAG may be seeking to resurrect an old BAA proposal for the Stansted Express to travel non-stop to and from London, cutting out all the intermediary stops it currently makes, mainly during the rush hours, which provides an important service for local commuters. If MAG wants to continue sharing the West Anglia main line with local users, there needs to be a balanced approach. The airport mustn't be the cuckoo in the nest at the expense of other users of the rail service.

Peter Sanders  
Chairman

Tel: 01799 520411

Email: [petersanders77@talktalk.net](mailto:petersanders77@talktalk.net)

## HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME September 2013 – May 2014

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sept Downing Street and its inhabitants - Colin Oakes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct The Blitz spirit - Brian Williams
- 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Unseen Stortford - Wally Wright
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec Hoax, famous jokes 18-19C - Jeff Page
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan Members Evening
- 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Stansted in 40s and 50s - Peter Brown and guests
- 6<sup>th</sup> Mar Victorian village schools - Sarah Doig
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr Rabbit Warrens - Fiona Bengtson
- 1<sup>st</sup> May AGM

For more information, please contact me.

Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

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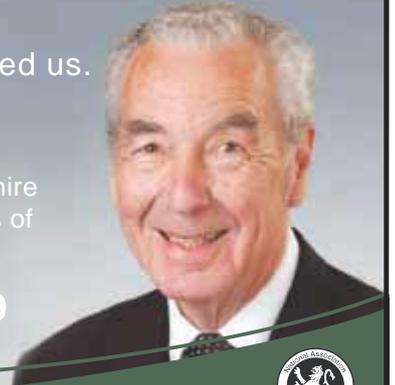
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# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### PLANNING APPROVAL SOUGHT TO REDEVELOP THE LIBRARY SITE AT CRAFTON GREEN

Background - An exhibition was held on 12 January in the Day Centre to display the proposals for the redevelopment of the library site into a purpose built multi-service community centre.

Approximately eighty written comments were received, most of which supported the rationale for the project with many being critical of the design and concerned about maintenance issues which could have long term cost implications.

Over the past four months the Parish Council has taken time to review the whole project from its rationale through other options on and off site.

#### Issues and Conclusions -

- *The rationale for the project is reaffirmed* - Most parishioners have supported the objective of providing a range of community services including an enlarged library, Parish Council offices, District Council services, a police presence, CAB and a public toilet in an enlarged single storey building. Consideration was given to operating out of the two existing buildings (only possible at all if the clinic is re-sited) but the benefits of economic staffing and much longer opening hours would largely be lost.
- Other sites elsewhere in the village were reviewed but were ruled out on cost grounds or space issues which would have made it difficult to accommodate the various services.
- Commissioning a traditional design (brick building with pitched roof) whether on one floor or two storey was assessed. Setting aside issues of higher costs (although material), there are planning issues relating to over-shadowing and a much less efficient use of what is an irregular and difficult site

which crucially would reduce the flexible use of internal space.

- The compatibility of a modern design in this location was reviewed. White render and timber (assuming high quality materials) are not out of keeping with either Western House or Crafton Green House.

*Maintenance concerns appear misconceived* - Having checked elsewhere modern flat roof technology produces a long life with no greater maintenance issues than a traditional pitched roof. It has been widely and successfully used on buildings of much greater size and complexity. External timber cladding weathers well provided it is of high quality (not always the case elsewhere).

#### Seeking planning permission:

The Parish Council passed a resolution on 22 May as follows:

That the design for the new community building should be submitted for planning approval.

In the period leading up to planning, a number of issues should be resolved:

An agreement must be reached with Essex County Council relating to an acceptable lease of space in the proposed new development before any further work is commissioned.

- The Cabinet at UDC must commit to releasing a further £100,000 from the Section 106 Community Fund albeit the timing of the payment is open to negotiation.
- Confirmation should be sought that £10,000 pa will be paid for three years to cover costs relating to Community Information Services and then reviewed.
- Further discussions should be held with Essex Police relating to the establishment of a police reception in the new building.
- Funding will be sought from other sources including a capital contribution from UDC towards the provision of a public toilet (replacing that removed from the Lower Street car park).

## **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR ELMS FARM**

The planning application for the redevelopment of land at Elms Farm has been refused by the Planning Committee at Uttlesford District Council. It was a very close thing with six members voting in favour and six against, so the refusal came on the Chairman's casting vote.

The main reason for refusal was that the site lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt and UDC has a policy against development on MGB land. That said, permission can be granted if the members consider that there are very special circumstances.

You will have read in last month's magazine the concerns raised by the Parish Council. These have subsequently been addressed and the application was therefore supported by us as we believe that gaining access to the parkland is a very special circumstance. Some members of UDC indicated at the meeting that they might be prepared to sanction a revised plan, so we will wait to see whether a new scheme is submitted.

## **THE ANNUAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING 2013**

An interesting and informative meeting was held at the Day Centre on Wednesday 22 May. Mr Alan Johnson, the Chairman of Uttlesford NhW, was the guest speaker. His knowledge of the workings of NhW proved to be helpful and gave the meeting an in-depth insight as to what is needed to make the organisation successful. With the financial cuts that the police are having to absorb, more input and support from the general public is necessary to sustain NhW in our area. Question time was lively and productive and the minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Stansted NhW Website.

Date of the next Annual Meeting is Wednesday 21 May 2014, in the Day Centre.

## **NEW HEALTH CENTRE ..... UPDATE**

Negotiations are on-going between the landowner and health authority regarding the finances of the project - hopefully more encouraging news soon.

## **STANSTED IN BLOOM**

This year we have many more entries than in past years and that is really great, because it will make our competition more interesting and exciting. The date for the judging is Monday 22 July, commencing at 3.20 pm. Our judges are both from the Gorsefield Rural Studies Centre in Stansted - namely, Gavin Gynn who is the head of the Centre and Paul Irving who organises the activities for the many children who attend the Centre each year.

The prize-giving will take place at the Stansted Day Centre on Saturday 27 July between 3.00 - 5.00 pm. Winners will be notified in due course. Thank you for entering our competition and good luck to everyone!

## **EMERGENCY EXERCISE**

On the evening of Thursday 16 May, Stansted Airport held its biannual Emergency Exercise and for the first time our own Emergency Team were asked to take part.

Our team were organised to manage a rest centre for up to thirty one evacuees who had to be moved from their homes when an explosion at the airport damaged their property.

Setting up a reception table where people booked in giving their names and addresses and any special needs. Tea and coffee was then provided by Julie Beck (the Day Centre manager) who also provided a hot meal of jacket potato and chilli for everybody.

During the evening it was our task to keep people informed of what was happening and you can understand in a real life situation the sort of questions you might get asked. Well, we were not disappointed. We had questions regarding horses that had been spooked, a field of sheep and goats with dogs in the next garden trying to get to them and a house that was burning with reptiles and a snake inside. So, the Police and Fire Service had to be notified and with the help of the District Animal Warden, problems were overcome. With the help of Lisa Lipscombe,

Uttlesford Emergency Plan Officer and Judith Snares from UDC (a trained Rest Centre Manager) to keep us focused on our job, we managed to survive the evening after a 3 ½ hour experience.

People say why do we need an Emergency Plan? Well, with a major airport on our doorstep, a motorway, a main-line railway line and everyday living problems, you just never know when it might be needed.

Well done and thank you to all the Team.

### **LITTER, LITTER EVERYWHERE**

Well, it's not quite that bad, but the finer weather has brought a noticeable increase in the volume of litter around the village, particularly on the Recreation Ground.

We are delighted that our open spaces and the play equipment are so popular but PLEASE, use the litter bins provided or take litter home with you. Parents - please remind your youngsters of their responsibility to pick up crisp bags, drinks bottles etc.

There are only so many hours in the week that Gerard is employed and the longer he has to spend in one particular area, means that somewhere else may have to be left without a visit.

### **NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

#### **UTTLESFORD HIGHWAY RANGERS - WORKING FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Is there an area in the village which looks a bit neglected, overgrown and unsightly? If the answer is 'Yes' then help could well be at hand with the Highway Rangers.

Any resident can request the help of the Highway Rangers. All you have to do is submit details of the area or item you would like to see tidied up and give details of its location, plus your contact information, including telephone/mobile details to the Parish Clerk. You can write, telephone or send an email.

Whether it be trimming back overgrown vegetation, ad hoc grass cutting and small repairs to non-electrical road signs, or small repairs, cleaning or painting of street furniture, the Highway Rangers can tackle a wide range of minor works not undertaken by your Parish Council as part of their normal maintenance programme.

They may have already included a request to tidy up the area or item you have in mind in their on-going maintenance programme. But if not, they can email your request to the Highway Rangers and, if within the scope of their operations, it will be approved for action.

The Rangers are there to provide a service which can help make your village even more attractive for local residents and visitors. But please note - the Rangers are only permitted to tidy up on land owned by Essex County Highways. They cannot act on private land.

So, if you have a request, then please forward details to the Parish Clerk.

**(Cllr John Salmon)**

### **WANTED - CAR PARKING VIEWS**

I am a member of the Scrutiny Committee at Uttlesford District Council and am on a working party looking at car parking in the broadest sense in Stansted, Dunmow and Saffron Walden. I am going to be looking in detail at the car parks in Lower Street and Crafton Green relating to usage, costs, availability, number of spaces and accessibility amongst other things.

The remit also covers residents' parking and issues for retailers and businesses. By the time you read this I will have met with residents on Chapel Hill to discuss parking issues and to get their feedback. I will also be asking for feedback from retailers and businesses and those who are part of the Stansted Business Forum. I really need to hear from you as soon as possible about your car parking experience in Stansted. Your opinion really does count so if you have any issues, please email me on [cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk) as soon as possible or call me on 01279 815848.

**(Cllr Iris Evans)**

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**DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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17 July Finance  
24 July Full Council

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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

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maggielincoln@aol.com  
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(Vice Chairman) m.caton@hotmail.co.uk  
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Geoffrey Sell 815925  
(Chairman) sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk  
Valerie Trundle 813433  
prtvt@btinternet.com

**Uttlesford District Council Members**

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

**Essex County Council Member**

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

**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 Tom Bastendorff - Non-emergency  
101  
PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07989 174801

**Neighbourhood Watch**  
www.stanstednhw.org.uk

**Parish Public Transport Representatives**

Valerie Trundle - 813433  
Joy Thomas - 813871

## 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: 07968 347176 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@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Inner Wheel Club	Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537	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: 01371 873156/ 07920 466923
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@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](mailto: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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Wow – more than just a touch of glamour came to Yeoman’s café on 6<sup>th</sup> June! Nicci Jackson, celebrity make-up artist, hosted a glamorous evening of professional make-up (J-Lo and starlet style), in aid of the nursery. The event was complete with doormen and Yeomans donated wine and canapés. Our models Elesa and Ashley were treated to full make-overs complete with smoky eyes and Hollywood lips. They looked sensational.



Everyone had a fantastic evening, finished off with a very impressive raffle, with lots of prizes donated by many local businesses including The Cork House, Lino Thomas Hairdressers, Ruth Eaton, Hadham Beauty & Well-Being, Lower Street Brasserie, Toni & Guy Hairdressers, Paris Legore florist and Kenzo perfumes. The event made over £900 for our wonderful nursery and we couldn’t be more grateful to Nicci Jackson, Cam and Craig at Yeomans, all the companies who donated raffle prizes and everyone who bought tickets and came along! I would also like to say a special thank you to Yeomans who contributed to this fantastic total, by presenting us with a cheque for £300. We are incredibly grateful.



Since our last update, we have also had three heroic obstacle course sponsored events taking place! Firstly Dominic Hattee took part in a 20 mile obstacle course called the Dirty Weekend (lots of mud!). A very big thank you to Dom, who raised over £700 for our nursery! In addition, another local team ‘Lactic Loonies’, pulled together by our local girl Anna Sedgbeer, took part in the Lactic Rush – a seven mile assault course! A very big thank you to your (crazy!) team, who raised over £600 for the nursery! Finally a team of five from Bishop’s Stortford undertook ‘Tough Mudder’ this weekend, after seeing our appeal on the BBC news. They completed a 12 mile obstacle course designed by the ex-military and raised £1000! Thank you all!! That’s more than £2,750 since our last update!

Forthcoming events:

**29<sup>th</sup> June** Nursery Open Day 10.00am-noon. Come along and meet our amazing staff and see our wonderful facilities. Call Andrea Charity for details on 07795 483674.

**July:** My lovely sister Caroline McIntyre will undertake her first mountain challenge – Mount Kilimanjaro, to be followed by Everest Base Camp later this year. Thank you! Please visit [www.justgiving.com/savegrovecottagenursery](http://www.justgiving.com/savegrovecottagenursery) Grove Cottage Special Needs nursery, in Bishop’s Stortford, is a fully inclusive educational and care setting for children with additional or complex medical needs, for children from birth until five years and you don’t need a formal diagnosis to attend. If you would like to meet us and have a look around, please call Andrea on 07795 483674.

Claire Cook  
Tel: 814782



**Stansted  
Cricket  
Club**

After six weeks of the season the 1<sup>st</sup> XI stand 7<sup>th</sup> in Div 1 with three wins. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI are 8<sup>th</sup> in Div 5 with two wins. The Sunday XI have had two wins, two defeats and a draw from five matches. In Round 1 of the Cup we defeated rivals Stansted Hall and Elsenham by 87 runs to earn a home tie v Langley in Round 2. Outstanding individual performances to date are M Cope (158), M Noori (130 no), M Johnson (111 no), J.Subramaniam (107 no, 96 no), H.Kirby (101, 80, 52), M Allen (84), C Kirby (84), M Muthukrishnan (74, 61), P Devoti (93 no, 77, 70 no, 62, 52 no), B Sammons (68 no), F Kirby (65), K Ayres (62), J Monk (59), R Gardiner (52) and S Peachey (51). Best bowling returns have come from B Baker (7-10) and M Noori (5-35 and 5-51).

Home fixtures for July are:-

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1800	U15 v Sampfords U15
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup>	1330	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Theydon Bois I
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Sun XI v To be Arranged
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	1330	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Matching Green II
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Sun XI v Ashdon
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	1800	U12 v Saffron Walden U12
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	1330	1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Matching Green I
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	1130	Sun XI v President’s XI
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	1330	2 <sup>nd</sup> XI v Takeley II
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	1400	Sun XI v Stocking Pelham
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup>	1800	U15 v Newport U15

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

David Hedge,  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 812509

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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

Hello from 494! I'm sorry it has been so long since you last heard from us but I have been off for several months on a maternity break, and having only returned to active duty at the beginning of May, this is the first opportunity I have had to sit down and collate all of the activities the cadets and staff have been up to since January. Firstly, in the snow and ice of February we sent three cadets and one very plucky member of staff over to MPD Wethersfield to join 614 Volunteer Gliding School for a day's gliding. Through the Corps, cadets can fly the Viking glider and can achieve various different levels of competency when flying it. Two of them achieved their Gliding Induction Course Levels 1 and 2, with one completing all three levels all in one day! Let's hope they have got the gliding bug and put themselves forward for more!



March saw the cadets taking part in a fundraising event up at Stansted Airport, organised by the Squadron's Civilian Welfare Committee. To raise funds for the Squadron, the cadets had to 'ride' to as many RAF flying stations around the country as they could within 24 hours, a big task some of you may say but actually, they did so well we had to keep adding in extra legs so that we wouldn't run out of distances. The bikes were kindly lent to us by Elsenham Golf and Leisure and they did clock up a fair few miles. We didn't make them ride all the way to the Falkland Islands; that's next year's task.

In April there was lots of practice for the up and coming Falklands Memorial Trophy Competition which is run by Essex Wing every year. It is in memory of the Falklands conflict and puts the cadet teams through various activities including camp craft, cooking on Trangias, map reading, bearings test, speed march and shooting, to name only a few of them. We sent two teams of mixed ability and it was a great success, with both teams managing to smash last year's placing by 10 places respectively, coming 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> out of 27 squadrons! A brilliant effort was made by all. We also took part in the Inter Squadron Athletics Competition over at Chelmsford, again competing against the other 26 Squadrons within Essex Wing, with our B Class Boys winning their section hands down, and nine cadets went to the South Downs over the bank holiday weekend to take part in their D of E Silver Expedition. Also in April we ran a recruitment night where new cadets could come along with their parents and find out a bit more about what the ATC is all about. We managed to recruit six new members who are well under way with their Junior Cadet training and who will soon be joining the rest of the Squadron. We also recruited a new member of staff to the Squadron. Sam Jack was a previous cadet at 494 and left to join the Army. After serving in Afghanistan he left and decided to move back to the area

and got back in touch with us. We welcome him and all of our new recruits to 494 and can't wait for you all to get stuck in to what the ATC has to offer. Just a little round up, but crikey, they have been busy over the last three months! If you would like any information about joining the Air Training Corps, joining 494 as either a cadet, a member of staff or as a member of our Civilian Welfare Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the Squadron on 681559 and leave a message on the answerphone or email the CO on [oc.494@aircadets.org](mailto:oc.494@aircadets.org).

Flt Lt Gemma Martin RAFVR(T)  
Commanding Officer



## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our last Committee served for 18 months after it was decided by the National Committee of the WI that all annual meetings should now take place in May instead of November. I think this has proved to be a good thing as annual meetings do entail quite a lot of paper work, when looking back over the last months, to be able to report all our activities to members, and November is a very busy time. This year we held ours in the Free Church Hall and welcomed members in with a glass of wine before we got down to business! We had nine nominations for the Committee which is the number we need, so no election was needed and we said goodbye to three and welcomed three new ones. I am remaining as President for this year with Jenny Wraith as Secretary and Sue Holland as Treasurer. It was good to hear of all the things we have been involved in during the year, notably with the Windmill Fete, having a stall at the first Christmas Market and preparing and serving refreshments at the Parish Council Reception, all of which we enjoy.

We are now able to have our meetings in the Day Centre on the second Thursday of each month, which I think will make it easier for some members to attend with regard to access and warmth in the winter, and we look forward to our new meeting place; whilst appreciating all the years that we have used St John's Church Hall. Our cup for the winner of our monthly competitions was won by Chris Hope. It was interesting to hear that the competition with the most entries, 25, was for 'paper-knives' and the least supported was the month when we asked for blue flowers when there didn't appear to be any flowers about at all, blue or otherwise! Brenda Ryan led us in a discussion on this year's National WI Resolution which was the 'Decline of our High Streets and Town Centres'. The WI is expressing their concern at the lack of support for the shops in local town centres of which we are all too well aware in this area. With the current financial climate it was felt by our members that people are using other ways of shopping because it is cheaper. There was a very good discussion and I think an intention to shop locally as much as we can.

As always, we welcome any visitors. Our next meeting is on **11<sup>th</sup> July 7.45pm in the Day Centre** when Jenny Wraith is giving an illustrated talk on her trip to Sri Lanka.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470

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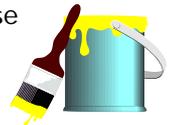
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As reigning champions for North Essex, MMCC hosted the regional final for the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Students and staff from North Essex schools spent two hours in an intensive revision workshop run by Fiona Whytehead of the Speakers Trust before performing in front of a panel of judges made up of local dignitaries and corporate representatives. MMCC Headgirl, Sophie Banks, performed superbly as MC for the evening. As last year's champion, Sophie was a reassuring voice for many of the students who were understandably terrified of performing in front of such a large audience.



*Georgia Crouchman*

Year 10 students, Georgia Crouchman and Megan Warwick, had been chosen to represent the College at the Regional Final, following a demanding selection process which culminated in performing their speeches to be judged by students and staff. The students were judged on the content, structure and delivery of their individual speeches – although we were not second time lucky on the night, both girls were highly commended by the panel of judges.



*Megan Warwick*

The topics of this year's speeches ranged from the value of long-term friendships to the importance of raising awareness for the victims of domestic violence: a true reflection of the honesty, loyalty and compassion of our students. Fiona trains young people all over the South East and praised our students for being confident, articulate and entertaining – she was particularly impressed to see how supportive the students were of each other in what can be quite a daunting task.

The audience was provided with first class entertainment from Year 10 Drama students performing a selection of scenes from 'Blood Brothers' as well as Sophie Banks, Isabelle Davies-Tutt and Georgia King demonstrating their musical prowess by singing a beautiful ensemble piece. Again, the judges were bowled over by the talent of our students – they really were exceptional.

Victoria Owen  
Student & Community Administrator  
Tel : 813384



## Huw Johnson Club

It has been another busy few weeks for the Huw Johnson Club. We have been playing bingo, had a general knowledge quiz courtesy of Garry King and created artistic masterpieces during a crafts evening. We also had the Bishop's Stortford Woodwind Band come along one evening to play for us which we all really enjoyed; it is always a popular evening, and members and helpers alike get to join in by playing various percussion instruments and doing some dancing to everything from the Dr Who theme tune to popular sea shanties. We have already booked them again for December to play some Christmas music for us. We also celebrated one of our members, Lesley's, 60<sup>th</sup> birthday last week with a small party. We have just booked a summer trip to the theatre at the end of August to see a Buddy Holly tribute which we're all looking forward to; at least we won't need to worry about the weather for it! We have our annual sports evening at the Lenton's in a few weeks' time - last year it rained heavily for the whole evening so we have our fingers crossed that this year we have some good weather. We've also got our summer BBQ and disco coming up soon at St Mary's School so some sunshine then would be good too!

We have several teenagers who give up their Thursday evenings to help out at Club, some of whom have been coming for a few years now. They are manically revising for their GCSEs at the moment so we all wish them lots of luck with their exams and a nice long and relaxing summer. If you want to learn more about Club or would like to come along, do get in contact with either Sandra on 812627 or myself.

Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270

## THANKS FOR PICKING UP

Those of us who have been looking (well me mainly) have noticed that there is less dog poo on the public open spaces. I have even started to leave the spray can at home. So all you dog owners can give yourselves and your dogs a pat on the back for being so responsible. We knew the majority of you were anyway. The Parish Council is reviewing the location of dog bins, and may decide to move some to better locations. We are also considering where new bins should go, as local vet Mercer & Hughes has kindly offered to pay for some more. So please let us know where they would be most used; and please let the Council know if any areas of Stansted are still dog poo grot spots. We have plenty of yellow spray.

Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

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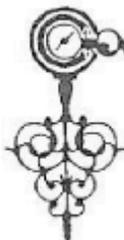
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Fundraisers for St Clare Hospice have been busy in Stansted again with our lovely supporters' group, ably led by Gill Robinson, holding a Jumble Sale in St John's Church Hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June which raised an amazing £608.43! I would like to thank everyone involved – those who donated jumble, those who bought it and, of course, all those who transported the jumble to and fro and helped on the day. The Sale was a great success and a big thank you from all at the Hospice for the wonderful sum raised. £600 will enable us to provide delicious, home-cooked food to our patients for three days so it is a really valuable donation. The lovely landlord and staff of the Dog & Duck in Lower Street are, as I write, holding a week of fundraising activities to raise money for the Hospice with £1 from each sale of their Dog & Duck burger being donated. There will also be a family barbecue on 15<sup>th</sup> June and a quiz night on the 20<sup>th</sup> so, hopefully, by the time you read this, the sun will have shone on the barbecue and brains will have been exercised by the quiz – all whilst raising valuable funds for St Clare Hospice. If there are any anglers amongst you, you may like to sign up for the St Clare Hospice Fishing Competition at Clavering Lakes which is being held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. There are some great prizes on offer – 1<sup>st</sup> prize is £150 – and fishing celebrity, Keith Arthur, will also be on hand to give advice and tips so it should be a great day. If you are interested, please contact me for a registration form. Thank you once again to everyone in the community of Stansted who continue to support their local Hospice – it really is appreciated. The difference with supporting a local charity is that we are able to spend a larger proportion of money donated directly on patient care as we are a smaller organisation than the nationals and, of course, you are always welcome to visit the Hospice and see exactly how we are spending your money!



Sarah Calder  
Community Fundraiser  
Tel: 07528 520016

Email: [sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:sarah.calder@stclarehospice.org.uk)

## STANSTED FAMILY CAFÉ

### Special Summer Events

As last year there will be fewer ordinary cafés during July and August, but there will be two special events to look forward to. This year's **Bouncy Picnic** - all Stansted families welcome - will be held on the Recreation Ground on **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August** from 1.00pm-4.00pm. Bring your own picnic and enjoy inflatables (for under-12s) and hotdogs. Please remember there is no parking at the Rec so either plan to arrive on foot or park in Crafton Green car park and walk through Spencer Close. On **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August** we will be providing a coach to **Frinton-on-Sea**, £5 per family, bookable at the café. Places available on a first-come, first-served basis for families who attend the cafe. For more details on either event contact me.

Ros Page  
Tel: 810813

Email: [rospagemusic@yahoo.com](mailto:rospagemusic@yahoo.com)

Mr Dave Spencer, our June speaker, has been growing dahlias since he was a young boy in South London. He has won numerous prizes at the various specialist Dahlia and RHS shows all over the country, exhibited overseas and is now a Judge. In his own garden in Fobbing, Essex, he grows 16 different varieties – from giant and large decorative varieties, cactus flowered to pompoms - and he showed members slides of these varieties explaining the differences between the various forms. All the varieties were very colourful and plants, ready to be planted out into the garden, were available to purchase. He also trials new varieties for the Dahlia Society and Growers.

Using a series of slides, members were guided through the various stages of growing prize dahlias. The season starts when the first frost kills the leaves and stems in the autumn. Careful drying and storing over the winter ensures the crowns will start to grow the following spring – the cold and damp are 'killers' to the tubers. In spring, the tubers are bedded and when shoots emerge from the crown of the tuber; these are cut off and potted on. Once the tubers have stopped sprouting or enough cuttings have been taken, these tubers are thrown away. Mr Spencer explained how "through trial and a lot of errors" he has found the best way to stake and protect the plants from wind damage and how to dis-bud and hold back the plants to ensure a good display at the shows. When it comes to dealing with the main 'enemies' of the dahlia grower (caterpillars, slugs, snails and earwigs) "prevention is better than cure" and members were given tips on how to deal with pests and diseases! Mr Spencer admitted that part of his garden resembled a dahlia factory at times as he has thousands of plants, at various stages of growth, some for displaying, others for selling, during a season.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> July Meeting

This meeting will not be held at the Day Centre as it is our evening visit to a nearby garden.

### 7<sup>th</sup> August Meeting

'Ornamental Grasses' – Mr Richard Ford. The Rose Bowl Competition - three stems of roses, any variety, and colour in a small vase. One entry per member.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144

or leave message on contact tab on our website

## CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS



To keep your flowers blooming for as long as possible, remove the dead heads regularly; this not only applies to bedding plants but also to hardy perennials such as foxgloves, delphiniums, lupins, etc. Follow down the stalk of the fading flower head to a leaf and cut the stem there; young shoots will sprout out and possibly produce another crop of flowers. While deadheading, don't forget your roses and hanging baskets. Watch out for potato and tomato blight; once it is there you can't do much about it, but there is a chance of preventing it by spraying your crops with Bordeaux mixture before it appears.

Cyril Stoneham

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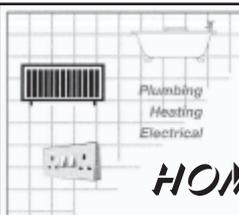
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## STANSTED SURGERY UPDATE

### Travel Vaccines

Well at last we are seeing some sunshine and summer feels like it is just around the corner. I'm sure many of you have either booked, or are planning your summer holidays. Please remember to also book an appointment with one of the Practice Nurses to discuss any travel vaccinations you may need, allowing plenty of time before your travel date.

### Appointments

The demand for appointments at the surgery continues to increase and we are doing our best to meet the varying needs of all our patients. We have recently undertaken a review by an external company to assist us with managing the increased workload. We are expecting the results of this detailed piece of work shortly and hope to be implementing their suggestions over the next couple of months.

### Charity of the Month

We have recently initiated a Charity of the Month at the surgery, starting with Canine Partners. This charity trains dogs to assist people with disabilities to enjoy greater independence and a better quality of life. We recently had a demonstration from a one year old retriever called Crumble, who showed us how he takes off hats and gloves, summons lifts, picks up dropped keys and coins and many other valuable skills. We are collecting used stamps for this charity so please drop off any stamps at Reception when you are passing; any contributions will be gratefully received.

Anabel Howard  
Practice Manager  
Tel: 818050

## CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH Blueberry Muffins

Blueberries are in season in July – you can even 'pick your own' locally. Try them in these muffins for a delicious treat this summer.

### Ingredients:

150g fresh or dried blueberries  
100g caster sugar  
100g butter  
300g self-raising flour  
1tsp baking powder  
1tsp vanilla extract  
140ml milk

### Method:

Line a muffin tray with paper muffin cases.  
Cream the butter and sugar together with a wooden spoon until fluffy, then add the eggs, one at a time and mix well. Add the milk and vanilla extract, then fold in the flour and baking powder to make a thick batter.  
Add the blueberries and spoon the mixture into the muffin cases.  
Bake for 30 minutes at 160C.  
Leave to cool in the tray for 10mins before turning out.

**For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook 07796 270068, [www.kiddycook.co.uk](http://www.kiddycook.co.uk).**

## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



This month we will go on a ride through the Universe. We take off to orbit the Moon, just once, before we dive very quickly to have a quick glance at Mercury before we are incinerated. Hardly have we moved from there, we are approaching Venus, she, too, is waiting to boil us in a few minutes. So hit the throttle hard and swing past Earth and head for Mars which, we have recently discovered, is subject to a lot more radiation than we realised, so keep going to Jupiter. Well not too close, for he, along with Saturn, will happily fry us too. But the view of them, especially Saturn's rings, is beyond beautiful. We are now a long way from the Sun, though it is still very bright to the naked eye. Oh look, there's Uranus, who for some reason is tipped over nearly 90 degrees compared to the other planets. He, and Neptune too, have rings, but much thinner than those of the others. With a quick wave to little Pluto we go to full throttle in to inter galactic space; the Sun a particularly bright star but dimming as we cross what seems to be billions in any direction you wish. A little later we look out of the back window and you will see the great whirl of our Galaxy. Like most galaxies it is spinning, although you won't notice it because one revolution takes up about 250 million years, give or take. Even our vast galaxy is only one of billions of billions - honestly. You do have to look out for galaxies, you know, as they do tend to collide with each other now and again. But don't worry about your no claims insurance, the collisions last for a million years or two and you can't claim until the crash has ended. Meanwhile on Earth, astronomers have come across something that is impossible. Such things are not unusual in space but this really is new and without explanation, at least so far; there are areas of space that are not just moving (everything is moving up here) it is accelerating which, like so many things about the universe, is impossible. All good things come to an end and it's time to go home. I trust you have enjoyed your trip around our universe. Did I just see a police box over there?

Martin West  
Mooncraft Productions  
Tel: 813514

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

In the June Link Ralph Phillips wrote of his concern that when considering the Elms Farm application the Parish Council had not mentioned the resolution passed at the Annual Parish Meeting that no development of more than 15 dwellings should be allowed in Standed.

There was no opportunity to discuss this at the Parish meeting. The figure of 15 was an arbitrary one, which has not been subject to scrutiny, and is not in any development plan. Therefore it would not be considered by Uttlesford planners to be a valid reason for refusal of a planning application. When considering the Elms Farm application the Parish Council was well aware of residents' concerns. Our considered view was given in last month's Link.

Geoffrey Sell  
Chairman  
Standed Parish Council



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## OUR ROAD

### OLD BELL CLOSE

The image that comes to mind when hearing the name Old Bell Close, is of a ramshackle church with crumbling bell tower. The reality couldn't be more far removed. Old Bell Close has a relatively short history as a road; in fact, less than 20 years.

During my research for this article, I visited the Essex Record Office to learn more about the land on which Old Bell Close is built, assuming I would struggle to write anything interesting about a road of such recent origin. [The Essex Record Office, by the way, is a veritable haven for any aspiring historian or research writer!] The Stansted Mountfitchet Tithe and accompanying map indicate the land apportioning (as of



1840), providing details of field names, land owners and occupiers. Of course, the difficulty when studying the map - which bears very little resemblance to the village as it stands today - is to identify what land the current road lies on. The best way to orientate one's self is to examine the position of Silver Street and the roads exiting it. Frustration and confusion gave way to utter astonishment at the discovery that Old Bell Close lies not on land belonging to Stansted Mountfitchet but just inside the boundary of Birchanger!

It lies on arable strips of land, numbered 12 and 13, lying directly behind plot 14, on which the Old Bell Public House stood, and still does. Both strips are listed as 'Part of Pines Hill Field' and had different land owners. Strip 12 had four owners, some of whom were brewers. After 1860, it was allotted to Charles Spencer who then sold it on to William Fuller Maitland (County High Sheriff). Strip 13 was owned by Trustees of Charles Hippuff. The occupiers of the land (most likely farmers) were John Say, who had plots 12, 14 (Old Bell Hotel) and 15 - Pines Hill Pasture - and James Smith.

Old Bell Close was built in two stages. In 1996, the first developers applied to build 14 to 21 detached houses. The Parish Council suggested three names for the road: Sanders Mead, Chester Close and Old Bell Close. Chester Close was most favoured and looked likely but Royal Mail said the name would cause problems thus Old Bell Close was chosen! The initial part was built up to, and including the first bend, numbers 1-16. Numbers 17-25 in the cul-de-sac off

the bend, followed. In 1998, the District Council approved a second developer's application to build ten more houses, 18-24 and 27-37, including the next cul-de-sac. The road was still a 'Close'. In 2001, the same developers were given



approval to build a further five houses, beyond Old Bell Close, in Stoney Common. Building was completed in early 2003 and the developers joined Old Bell Close up to Stoney Common, now used by many as a safe thoroughfare instead of the precarious exit on to Silver St. Essex Highways adopted the first part as Public Highway in 2005 and the rest in 2006.

Fourteen houses in Old Bell Close are served by a pump station (small green cabin with high black fence surround) on the first bend, maintained by Thames Water. Those properties are situated below the level of the main foul water drainage system, requiring their water to be pumped back into the main pipes rather than a gravity fed system.

On the social front, the road held a Jubilee street party last year, which, by all accounts, despite the rain, was much enjoyed! Aside from being a thoroughfare, it's a fairly



peaceful place to live. However, some of the cul-de-sac and Stoney Common residents, whose houses are located directly next to the railway line, may beg to differ!

Anna Nolan

## IS STANSTED WELL READ?



If you enjoy meeting new people and enjoy reading why not combine the two and join our book club? This small group meets one evening per month. Our next meeting is 8.00pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at The Dog and Duck. For more information please email me or find us on Facebook.

Liz Long

Email: stansted\_is\_well\_read@yahoo.co.uk

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At our May meeting Andrew Harrison, the newly appointed Managing Director of London Stansted Airport, outlined Manchester Airport Group (MAG)'s plans for Stansted:

1. Secure more destinations and increase passenger traffic by 5m per year by 2018. Following a sharp decline in passenger numbers since it peaked at 23.7m in 2007; the increase proposed by MAG would restore to previous levels.
2. Achieve a richer mix of airlines. Presently the emphasis is on short-haul budget airlines, and although they have been the foundation for the success of Stansted, MAG recognises that to truly succeed as London's third airport, they need to increase the number of commercial operators from today's 14 to 70 or more, offering passengers more choice, and more business routes.
3. Improve car parks and the passengers' terminal experience. There's a planned £40m+ investment earmarked to achieve this, including reducing the check-in area, to increase the airside areas, expanding retail offering.
4. Make Stansted the best airport in London.

He reported that plans for a second runway are on hold. MAG's emphasis will be maximising productivity from the existing runway that is currently limited to 35m passengers per year. Stansted is already the third busiest freight airport in the UK (behind Heathrow and MAG-owned East Midlands) but there are plans to expand cargo traffic. The goal is to overtake East Midlands, requiring an increase of over 25%. MAG are very keen to work with the local community and want local companies to be involved in the airport supply chain. Lunch Group members raised a series of questions relating to airport parking and how local companies could engage with the airport. The next Lunch Group Meeting is at Bury Lodge, 12.30 for 1.00pm on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, details at [www.stanstedlunch.com](http://www.stanstedlunch.com).

Bob Lee

## DOGS AND CATS

Summer's coming, so don't forget to check your dog's paws for grass seeds when it comes back from a walk, and avoid leaving your dog in the car, even for a short time. It's great to be out and about with your pets but remember that while we are in our shorts and T-shirts, they are still in their fur coats! It seems like we have all sorts of events going on over the next couple of months. On 7<sup>th</sup> July we will be at the Thaxted Dog Show, a charity dog show with lots of fun classes to enter. We will be there in our brand new gazebo, with lots of information and games to play, so do come along and chat to us. Blaise, our newest vet at Stansted, and Jackie, our deputy head nurse, are also organising two information evenings about caring for the elderly cat: 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the Great Dunmow surgery and 25<sup>th</sup> July at the Saffron Walden surgery. Blaise and Jackie are both passionate about caring for cats and the talk will cover common conditions and also feline behaviour. They promise to be great evenings, so give the surgery a ring for further details.

Finally, you may not be aware that in my 'spare' time I write poetry and have recently had several of my poems included in an anthology of poetry by veterinary surgeons and nurses. The book is called My Constant Endeavour, which is part of the veterinary surgeon's oath, and contains poems on a huge variety of subjects and is also illustrated with pastel drawings by a remarkable vet called Barry Edwards, who died of pancreatic cancer just as the book was completed. The book is available from the Stansted surgery, priced £10, with all proceeds going to cancer research. I read some of my poems at the official launch a few weeks ago and someone asked me afterwards to sign the copy they had bought. It completely took me aback as usually the only things I sign are vaccination certificates! Don't worry though, my husband will make sure my five minutes of fame don't go to my head and I certainly won't be giving up the day job!

Ilse Pedler

Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgery

## SAVE STANSTED VILLAGE (SSV)

### Taylor Wimpey (Bentfield Green)

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent public meeting about Taylor Wimpey's plans for development at Bentfield Green. The meeting was chaired by Geoffrey Sell and comprised a presentation by SSV members Jamie Hogg and Simon Thompson, a question and answer session and fundraising activities. As well as displaying your strong and principled opposition to the plans, you also swelled our fighting funds by over £1000. So many, many thanks to all of you for demonstrating once again the strength of community feeling in Stansted Mountfitchet. As of mid-June there were over 250 letters of objection to the Taylor Wimpey plans on the Uttlesford planning website and we hope that when you read this there are many more.

### Knight Developments (Elms Farm)

The Elms Farm application was narrowly turned down by the Planning Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> June with six members voting in favour, six against and the Chair casting her vote against. It remains to be seen whether there will be an appeal of this decision at national level.

### Other Developments

At the time of writing Linden Homes (Pines Hill) and Bloor Homes (Walpole Farm) have still not submitted applications.

### Donations – Please keep the funds coming

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

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Simon Thompson



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# Stansted Tennis Club



## Pearce Adult Doubles Tournament 9<sup>th</sup> June

Ten players competed in the two group round-robin stages. In the semi-finals Rick Lim and Sue Armorgie beat John Nichol and Jan Hollis 6-3, and Chris Hollis and Lorraine Cowie scraped through 6-5 against Lisa King and Daphne Lunnon. The final was another close affair with Chris and Lorraine coming out on top and defeating Rick and Sue 6-5.

## Ladies' Nights

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 7.00pm - all lady members welcome.

## Club Tournament

The draws for each event are now up on the Clubhouse noticeboard. If you have entered this year's tournament, please arrange your matches as soon as possible!

## Coaching

For more information about coaching please contact either me or Martyn Taplin 816386 (Monday night adults). I currently have the following vacancies:

Mondays 4.00pm-4.30pm - ages 6-7 (1 place)  
Mondays 4.30pm-5.45pm - ages 13-16 (girls)  
Thursdays 4.30pm-5.00pm - ages 9-11 (1 place)  
Thursdays 5.00pm-5.30pm - ages 8-10 (1 place)

Chris Hollis  
Tel: 319155



## Nature Notes

Foxgloves are not widely found in this area as they prefer acid soils. However, they can now be seen in the Aubrey Buxton nature reserve near the upper pond. When the pond was dredged two or three years ago, foxglove seeds which had lain dormant for many years were brought up in the dredged material. This was left on the bank and now supports a group of these beautiful flowers. The petals are fused together to form long downward hanging tubes. The lower lobe provides a landing stage for bumble bees which pollinate the flower. They are attracted by the heavy spotted pattern on the petals. Although the foxglove is a poisonous plant, its leaves were used by traditional herbalists to make infusions to treat fevers and catarrh and also dropsy. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the action of this medication was studied clinically by William Withering, a botanist and physician. He discovered that treatment with foxglove leaves slows down the heart and this then stimulates the kidneys to eliminate excess fluid in the body. He realised the dried leaves could be used to treat heart failure as long as the dosage was very accurately measured. Later on the active ingredients in the foxglove (digitalis) were isolated and identified as digitoxin and digoxin (together known as digitalis drugs) and they are still used by the medical profession in the treatment of heart conditions.



Rosina Kirkwood



## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

## St John's Fete Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May

We were very happy once again to have a stall in the Memorial Gardens called 'Find the Wine', which proved to be as popular as ever. Many thanks to all the helpers and all the participants - we hope you enjoyed your tipples!

## Herts & Essex Senior League

Playing well and standing third in the league.

## Ladies' Friendlies

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May return game against Much Hadham we won by 13 shots; well done ladies. When Thaxted ladies visited us on 23<sup>rd</sup> May we had to unfortunately abandon the game after 10 ends, as we had rain, hailstones etc. I think we were all glad to come in and have a nice hot drink.

## Ladies' Monday Night League

With three games under our belt and two wins, keep up the good bowling.

## Men's North West Essex League

Doing quite well: B team not on the bottom - A team top of the league.

## Weekend Friendlies

Well under way with close results all round.

## Cooper Cup

First leg played at Bishop's Stortford - only nine shots down. We look forward to the second leg.

## Ladies' County Games

Some well fought games with very close results - lovely to meet so many different bowlers from across Essex; good luck to you all in your next round.

## Club Competitions

Bumper number of entries this year should make for a very interesting Finals Day.

Wishing you all great weather and another enjoyable season of bowling.

Doreen Scraggs  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178  
Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



Do you have a Level 2 or above qualification in childcare? We are currently recruiting casual staff to work for just a few hours a week at the Children's Centre. If you would like to know more please call me. Now that it really is summertime it is the perfect time to join us on our buggy walks, every Friday morning at 10.30am, starting at Spangles. No need to book, just come along. On 12<sup>th</sup> July we will be starting a new group at Spangles called 'Baby Time.' This is for all parents and carers with newborn babies up to six months old. It will be every Friday morning from 10.00am-noon, with a health professional on hand to give breastfeeding advice from 11.30am-noon. Lastly, we never forget the importance of dads and our Just4dads group continues on the second Saturday of every month. So we hope to see lots of you on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 10.00-11.30am.

Lesley Murdoch  
Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator  
Tel: 07964 106378

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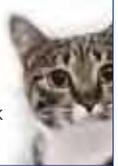
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