

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link



p35

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The Link

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Editorial



Advertising is an essential part of the 'Link's role, as much for the forum which it provides for a multitude of needs as for the income it generates, and without which we could not operate as a free publication. We attempt to achieve a balance of trades and services and to charge no more than is necessary for a voluntary enterprise. Very occasionally there are complaints that we carry too much, but no copy is squeezed out by advertisements, and is only deferred if there is a spate of news or mainstream copy in a particular month. We do encourage our readers to 'look local' and support the traders and service providers; they are necessary for a vibrant community.

In this edition of 'Nature Notes' Felix makes a spirited case for understanding the natural (real) world. The more complex life becomes the greater our need to allow the natural rhythm to set our pace. Fortunately we live in a place and time when this is still possible, if not easily attainable. The withdrawal of the second runway application is good news to most and goes well with Felix's remarks. More unemployment at the airport is not welcome, however, so we must hope that other job opportunities arise and receive local encouragement.

CIRCULATION:

The Link is delivered free to 2700 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or

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

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

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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.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

It is now 12 months since I moved to Stansted with my wife, Sara, to take on the role of Assistant Curate for the parishes of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham, after being ordained Deacon at Chelmsford Cathedral on 5th July 2009. It has been a real privilege getting to know and serve our three communities. I have particularly enjoyed leading assemblies in our four primary schools and time spent at The Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. We are truly blessed in having schools of a high standard with such a caring and supportive attitude for pupils of all abilities. During my time leading assemblies I have noticed that primary school children seem to have a well-developed knack for asking quite complex theological questions in a very direct way that has kept me on my toes!

At the other end of the age spectrum, when visiting the Hargrave House and Broome End care homes I am always impressed by the caring staff and the incredibly varied and interesting lives the residents have lived, often overcoming great challenges in their lives. It never ceases to make me feel very humble when listening to their life stories.

The next phase of my own ministry in our parishes begins on Sunday 27th June when I will be ordained Priest by the Bishop of Colchester at St John's Church, Stansted. This means I can then preside at Holy Communion services and weddings, alongside the Worship 4 All, baptism and funeral services I already take. I am looking forward to the new challenges I will face over the next year, knowing that I am serving God in our communities. In the words of one of my favourite hymns, which we often sing at the primary schools: *And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you.*



Giles Tulk
Curate of the United Benefice
of Stansted Mountfitchet,
with Birchanger and Farnham



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Ministers Rev'd Allen Morton
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Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Rev'd David Mullins
Tel: 654475
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Please note: no service on 27th June due to the Fun Run

Preachers for July

4th 10.30am Andrew Brown and The Worship Team
11th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Holy Communion
18th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton
7.00pm Café Worship
25th 10.30am Sarah Devereux

Pilots Art Exhibition and Coffee Morning

Come along and see local artist Arthur Law at work in the Hall on Saturday 10th July from 10.00am until 1.00pm. Proceeds to Mission Aviation Fellowship. All welcome.

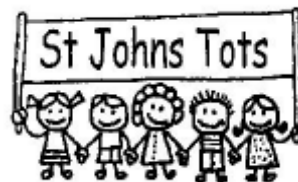
Stansted Free Church Welcomes Worship Leaders

On 9th May, Catherine Dean, Fran Richards, Brenda Veitch and Alan Wheeler were welcomed as accredited worship leaders during a communion service led by Methodist

Minister Rev'd David Mullins. As worship leaders are initially accredited for three years, the service also included the re-accreditation of Marion Dyer, who has been a worship leader for ten years. All five attended a worship leaders' course led by supernumerary Rev'd Stuart Veitch. The course included experience of other forms of worship, including The Salvation Army; Holy Trinity Brompton (home of the Alpha Course); Turvey (Benedictine) Abbey; Café Worship at Costa Coffee (led by Loughton Methodist Church); The Brompton Oratory (Roman Catholic); and Harlow Pentecostal Church. Ten members from Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church also attended the course, eight of whom became accredited worship leaders. Stansted Free Church was formed in 2006 from Stansted Methodist Church and Stansted United Reformed Church, and the worship leaders represent both denominations.



L to r: Rev'd David Mullins, Marion Dyer, Catherine Dean,
Fran Richards, Brenda Veitch, Alan Wheeler



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
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Wednesday, Friday
Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings
Website: www.stansted.net/stjohns

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Tel: 817155
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Director of Music: Lorraine Everett
Email: church.music@stansted.net

Church Hall Bookings: Joy Lambe
Tel: 817937
Email: joy@popcornwebdesign.co.uk

St John's Diary Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday

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.

Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer

Monday-Friday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

From the Registers

May

Baptisms

23rd Ava McDonald
Amy Elizabeth Harris
Jessica Caitlin Harris

Marriages

29th Joanna Hunt to Christopher Hibberd
Caroline Wallace to Mark James

The weekly service for young mums and children continues at St John's Church Stansted every Tuesday morning in term time. This friendly service is held so parents can meet other mums and their children in a relaxed environment in church. The format is usually meet at 9.15am, coffee and chat followed by a bible story with the children being actively involved with music and time for play. Refreshments are served for children and parents and the event ends around 10.45am. All mums and children are welcome. Details are always in the St John's Church section in the 'Link'.

Derek Francis

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the first draws held on 31st May, who were:

£100: No. 49 – Debbie Johnson
£ 50: No. 184 – Verity Beynon
£ 25: No. 63 – Pamela Jackson

The June draws will take place on Wednesday 30th June at the Pie Night in the Dog & Duck at 7.30pm. This will be followed by the July draws including the extra draw for £200 on Friday 30th July in the Rose & Crown at 7.30pm. Come along and see if you are a winner!

There are still some numbers available if anyone wishes to join or increase their numbers – for an application form please contact Francine Cope (814562) or Rosemary Thomson (815551).

ST JOHN'S THEATRE OUTINGS GROUP

I have been pleased to receive interest in joining our mailing list and there is room for more month-by-month. I have provisionally booked 20 tickets for each of three shows at The Arts Theatre, Cambridge in the autumn. They are: 'Carrie's War' starring Brigit Forsyth and Hannah Waterman on Saturday 11th September, 'The Rivals' starring Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles on Tuesday 5th October and 'Calendar Girls' starring Lynda Bellingham and Ruth Madoc on Monday 18th October. The cost for each trip is £35 including travel. If you would like to join us, please let me know as soon as possible as I will have to give final numbers very shortly. Many thanks.

Rosemary Thomson
Tel: 815551

Email: r.thomson321@btinternet.com.



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High Lane

Priest Father Joe White
The Presbytery
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Stansted
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Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am

Holy Days of Obligation 8.00am and 8.00pm

Tuesday-Saturday 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



Shalom

Our last session for this term will be our Bring and Share evening, at 8.00pm on Monday 12th July. Please bring a reading, poem, or music to share, as well as some food or drink. Weather permitting we shall be in the garden! We resume again on 27th September – more details in next month's 'Link'.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



RED CROSS WEEK COLLECTIONS 2nd-8th MAY 2010

Thank you so much to everyone who was involved with this week. The collectors did a marvellous job and the amount raised was £1170. Thank you to all who contributed - it was really appreciated.

Christine Stiles

Perspective

Jaded, dejected, devoid of all zest
We're off to relax, de-stress, and rest
Found the ideal place, we boast to our mates
In tranquil Cumbria between coast and lakes
A smart luxury apartment, we smirk
But on arrival we find the fridge doesn't work!

The owner's all charm and full of apology
Impossible to mend till after the Bank Holiday
With fixed smiles we take it all in our stride
We're British after all – make no fuss - just seethe inside
We tread the tourist trails cross fields to the local kirk
Trudge back to the flat and the fridge that doesn't work.

We battle strong winds, rain and sun
(It's the Lake District bad weather's half the fun!)
To the House of Wordsworth for our cultural fix
Half the lovely garden's gone
Lost in last year's floods
Damaged buildings stand empty, bare, besmirched
And our 'bleeping' fridge STILL doesn't work.

Wednesday brings a clear cloudless sky
Promises a sunny day, spirits are high
Flashing blue lights cause unease
Screaming sirens disturb the breeze
Helicopter hovers, a taxi man goes berserk
We hardly notice that our fridge doesn't work.
For 13 people died in Whitehaven today

Looking back as we leave
At the views, now serene
We pass the grey house where the gunman stayed
Just one young policewoman
Replaces the vans, plus two
Just one stray reporter and a sole TV crew
No more flashing lights the sirens are silent
What importance a holiday in a tale of such violence?

Yvonne Ayres



Birchanger Primary School



Summer Fayre

1-3 pm Sat 3rd July

Barbecue ~ Bouncy Castle
Pony Rides ~ Refreshments
and lots of fun games and stalls
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With Bocking Concert Brass Band

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2 - 4.30 pm Sat 3rd July

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Stansted Windmill

Open 1.30 - 5 pm

Sun 4th July

St Mary's Church

Open 2 - 5 pm

Sun 4th July



VILLAGE EVENTS

July

3	Sat	Bradwell Pilgrimage Summer Fayre Ugley Village Fete	11 am Birchanger School 1 - 3 pm The Cottage 2 - 4.30 pm Mountfitchet Coll 11 am - 2 pm 1.30 - 5 pm
4	Sun	Car Boot Sale Windmill open St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
8	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
10 Sat / 11	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
10	Sat	Pilots Art Exhibition & Coffee Music in the park Edwardian Fête	Free Church Hall 10 am - 1 pm Bentfield School 1.30 pm Berden Hall 2 pm
11	Sun	Cricket Club Celebration Funday Copy in for Link	Hargrave Park 1 pm 12 noon
12	Mon	Shalom Party	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
14	Wed	Stansted Lunch Club	Weston Business Centre 1 pm
18	Sun	Lib Dem Cultural Lunch	7 Blythwood Gardens 1 pm
24 Sat / 25	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
25	Sun	Manuden Glyndebourne	Wilford House 6 for 6.30 pm

August

4	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
7 Sat / 8	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
12	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
14	Sat	Elsenham Medieval Day	



STANSTED PILOTS

Art Exhibition & Coffee Morning

Paintings by Arthur Law

10 am - 1 pm Sat 10th July

Free Church Hall

All Welcome

In aid of Mission Aviation Fellowship

BERDEN EDWARDIAN FÊTE

2 pm Sat 10th July

Berden Hall

Steel Band ~ White Elephant

Morris Men ~ Bottle Stalls

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Sat 7th & Sun 8th Aug



Stansted & District
Liberal Democrats

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with live music & poetry

1 pm Sunday 18th July

7 Blythwood Gdns

Adults £10 Children £4

Tel 814222 or 813579

Bentfield Primary School PTA



Sat 10th July

Doors Open 1.30

Live Bands from 2 pm

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Manuden Village Glyndebourne

6 for 6.30 pm Sun 25th July

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St Mary's Church if wet

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Entry by programme

£10 adults, £5 children

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1 pm Sun 11th July

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MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



The Real Game

Year 9 were given a day off timetable to follow through the Real Game. The Real Game is a series of activities which help to increase the students' knowledge about finance and careers. Each Year 9 student looked into their future and decided what material objects they hoped to attain by the time they were in work, including houses/boats/cars/pets. Having totalled the cost of the chosen goods, they were allocated a job. The various aspects of the job, hours, holidays and pay etc were given to them. Using the pay, they were asked to balance their money requirements for their wish list. Most students found that they were over budget, and had to readjust their budget so they were not in debt. They repeated the same process for their leisure time. Real Life! Most students realised by the end of the day that they needed to gain a high paying job if they wanted all the goods on their wish list. Most also appreciated that they needed good qualifications if they were to obtain these high paying jobs! Interestingly enough the part of the day that most did not like was 'completing the budget'! There were very positive comments about the day. The staff thought that it was definitely worthwhile. The students thought that they had learnt a lot about money and how they cannot expect their parents to always come up with the cash!

Mrs F Barve

Work Related Learning Coordinator

Sports Partnership News

On 14th May over 150 KS1 pupils from six of our local primary schools came and took part in our annual summer Multi-skills event. The event, which is lead by the MMCC sports leaders, allows the younger pupils to practise and enhance basic skills such as throwing and aiming, which can later be developed as they go through school into more complex skills and games. All of the younger students appeared to enjoy themselves with many asking to come back again. Many thanks once again to all of the sports leaders involved. 19th May saw the return of the annual Kwik Cricket Tournament, now in its 3rd year: an impressive 14 teams took part. The event, which is hosted by Stansted Hall Cricket Club, was this year also supported by the Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club who made a kind donation to the cricket club. The cricket club then supplied refreshments for the afternoon and pledged to purchase a trophy for the girls' competition. After a very long afternoon of some very skilful cricket, the results were:

Boys – 1st Howe Green, 2nd Manuden, 3rd Little Hallingbury.

Girls – 1st Little Hallingbury, 2nd Howe Green, 3rd St Marys Stansted.

Mixed – 1st Farnham, 2nd Little Hallingbury, 3rd Manuden. Congratulations to Manuden Boys and Little Hallingbury Boys and Girls teams who have qualified to represent the Stansted family in the partnership final on 11th June. Many thanks to David Brown, Stansted Stort Valley Rotary Club for supporting the day and Keith Ayres, Thomas Crouchman from MMCC, and Ben Baker from Stansted Hall Cricket Club for umpiring.

Miss A Davis
PE Department, SSCO

MMCC PTA

Sunday 4th July Car Boot Sale. 11.00am-2.00pm (setting up from 10.00am). Pitches on the day £7.00 for cars, £12 for vans and lorries. Hot snacks available in the College canteen, and there will be added attractions. Please phone Tina on 814371 or Yvonne on 813071. Next one is on 26th September. www.mmccpta.org.uk

Year 10 'Speak Out' Challenge

MMCC Year 10 students practised their public speaking when 25 students had the opportunity to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, the world's largest youth speaking event. The Challenge has now become a popular event on the College calendar with this year's students being led by Abi Quine, a former TV producer, from the Jack Petchey Speakersbank. The purpose of the day is to give students the skills to speak confidently and purposefully on a number of topics. This year's speeches ranged from the value of friendship to the experience of moving from Czechoslovakia to study in Stansted. The students were taught how to structure a speech effectively; how to ensure the content of a speech would allow the audience to connect, as well as the art of delivering speeches. These skills ensure that the students leave College with the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people; a valuable asset for both work and further education. All the students benefited from the day by not only thoroughly enjoying themselves, but by being able to measure an increase in their confidence: students who were reticent at the beginning were confidently delivering effective speeches by the end. A further event is planned for later in year where more Year 10 students will be given the opportunity to 'Speak Out'. Mrs Boggis, Head of English, commented "We're very much looking forward to more of our students taking part in this valuable day; there is always a wonderfully supportive atmosphere as students work together to improve their skills and produce some superb presentations."



HuWJohnson
Club

Plans are going ahead for a boat trip with a fish and chip lunch aboard, on 24th July. We are also planning, well in advance, a visit to the pantomime at Harlow. Before this we hope to get together with all our drivers in July. Invitations for these events will soon be sent out. Our young helpers continue to be a great help and a rounders match (indoors) proved a very happy time, organised entirely by them. It didn't matter one bit that two of our members somehow managed to score rounders for both teams! Sarah and her family gave us all a treat for Sarah's birthday. We all enjoyed the music that David and Arthur Law entertained us with and the birthday cake was delicious. Thank you Sarah.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284

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Stansted Tennis Club



Dates for your diary

Members with email addresses will be circulated with tournament details. Please also keep an eye open for posters and entry forms in the Clubhouse. The next forthcoming tournaments are:

Sunday 18th July - Bristow Junior Doubles Tournament (age 15 and under) 12.45pm

Sunday 1st August - Wilby Senior Tournament 12.30pm

The next Ladies' Open Evening will take place from 6.30pm on Monday 12th July.

Club Tournament

The draw is now up for the Club Tournament. Would all who have entered please check the Club notice board and ensure that all first round matches are arranged as quickly as possible and played by Sunday 4th July.

Coaching

The Friday lunchtime adult coaching session starts at 1.45pm and finishes at 2.45pm. If you would like to come along and join in, please call Chris Hollis on 319155 - (please do not just turn up). You don't have to be a member of the club to join in. Chris is currently collecting names of Year 2 and 3 children who are interested in starting tennis lessons. If there is enough interest, hopefully a new group will be established in the near future. There are several after-school coaching groups for various ages during the week. If you would like to find out more details, please give Chris a call. There are spaces available for the following sessions:

Mondays 4.30pm-5.45pm - Girls' match practice - age group, 1996-1998 dates of birth.

Tuesdays 4.30pm-5.45pm - Boys' match practice - age group, 1996-1999 dates of birth

Martyn Taplin (816386) has changed his adult coaching slot from a Saturday afternoon to a Monday evening. Please phone Martyn should you wish to join in or if you want the latest update.

Used tennis balls

Used tennis balls can be purchased for £1 per tube of four - choose your own! Owners of dogs who enjoy chasing balls may also wish to take up this reasonable offer. Please contact Jan Hollis on 812073 or call at 105 Cambridge Road.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions at the following times: Wednesday 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Friday 9.30am. Sunday 10.00am

Contacts

If you would like further information, please contact Richard Mott (Secretary) on 466348, Janet Hollis (Chairman) on 812073 or Daphne Lunnon (Membership Secretary) on 817574.

Chris Hollis

THE BIG TODDLE



This year's Big Toddle, our Barnardo's fundraiser, took place on Friday 11th June on the Recreation Ground. The theme was 'Pirates' and lots of effort was put into costumes for the children. Despite the absence of sunshine, around 45 children came to take part in the treasure hunt, walking the perimeter of the Rec to look for clues with the help of a treasure map.



All of them were then rewarded with a medal and a certificate and then the chance to play more pirate games (walking the plank, and a 'cannonball' sea battle). Lots of fun was had by all, and many thanks go out to everybody who helped on the day. Special thanks to Spangles for their support and Bentfield School nursery for bringing all of their class down for the event, and helping to raise money for children who are less fortunate than our own.



Rachel Pocknell (ACIM)

Tel: 816215

Mobile: 07818 213723

Email: www.sunnysidechildcare.org.uk

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Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Our May meeting is the month when we discuss and vote on any resolutions that will be voted on at the National AGM which is held every June, this year at Cardiff. We had only one this year - that being to urge HM Government to introduce clear and mandatory country of origin labelling on all meat, poultry and fish products. The members voted in favour of this and our delegate will vote accordingly at the AGM. This was followed by our speaker Judy Jeffrey whose talk was entitled 'Looking Good and Feeling Good', the basis of which is to help us become more confident about choosing clothes and make-up that suits us, and avoiding those ghastly mistakes that end up living in the wardrobe for all time because once outside the shop, they don't look so good any more (maybe we wear rose tinted glasses when looking in shop mirrors). Correct skirt lengths, the use of belts, emphasising your best assets, and disguising the worst with the correct size and style would seem to be the key. One of our members acted as a model to demonstrate the correct colours for her and the correct make-up.

Our June meeting was Members' Day when the main Committee takes a rest and the members run the evening. The Speaker was Terry Taber whose talk was entitled 'My Life in Ladies' Underwear' and NO - he did not arrive in fishnet stockings! He ran a wholesale and retail haberdashery and clothing business for over ten years and has had a variety of jobs, many in the rag trade. His time working in larger companies encouraged him to work for himself, which he never regretted, although sometimes he wondered if he would be better off with a proper job. He had us all laughing with the various stories. One involved a gentleman who went to buy his wife a bra and said she was a size 14. Told that this was a dress or blouse size, not bra, the answer he gave involved the size of his bowler hat which was a size 7! I'll leave the reader to work that out. His talk was followed by a cream tea, scones and jam, and three amusing rhymes connected to underwear were read by the Members' Day Committee. It was a good meeting, which was well attended. We had a lot of visitors from other WIs among us, namely Elsenham, Manuden and Ugley. Everyone said they enjoyed it. Although it was a dull cold evening outside we tried to create a bit of summer inside for the evening. We hope it worked.

At our July meeting the subject of the speaker is 'Famous Women in History and why Croissants aren't French'. Our meetings start at 7.45pm in St John's Hall. We meet on the second Thursday in the month.

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If you were a subscribing member last year, or are already on our mailing list, you will be receiving our newsletter very soon, including an invitation to subscribe again for the coming year at the reduced rate of £32 for all four concerts. This represents a saving of a third on the standard price of £12 per concert and is unchanged since 2008/09. If you would like to be added to our mailing list (with no commitment to become a subscriber), please send your name, address and email address if you have one to: info@musicatstansted.com or to *music@stansted*, The Limes Mews, Silver Street, Stansted CM24 8HE. Or just come along (with the family if possible – we charge just £1 for accompanied children!) on any of the dates above to enjoy music from world-class artists in a beautiful setting and friendly atmosphere!

We have a full programme for next season, with the details appearing in a future issue.

Richard Allaway



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Nature Notes

*"Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em,
And little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum;
And the great fleas in turn have greater fleas to go on,
While those again have greater still, and greater still, and so
on."*

Recently in the local 'Observer' there was a report and picture of a heap of domestic rubbish dumped in the middle of one of our lanes. This made news because it was dumped in the middle of the road, but we all know that rubbish is regularly disposed of along our local verges and ditches. All roads, verges, footpaths and bridleways are classed as public highways and although it is against the law to discard litter or rubbish in a public place, huge numbers of our local community continue to do so. It seems that so many people from infancy through to old age must constantly be eating, drinking and smoking and drop their litter for someone else to clear up. A quick survey round part of the edge of Stansted has shown that over 50% of households adjacent to lanes or footpaths dump their garden or domestic rubbish on to these public highways, although they have generous sized gardens and excellent waste facilities in the district.



Some may say that these things are due to failings in our education system and society in general. Others may take the view that it is only natural that a living community should have parasites. Having read the verse at the top of this article, one might propose that the whole human race is a parasite on the earth and continue the simile ad infinitum. If we accept that we are all parasites at some level, how does this fit in with the great natural order? As far as nature is concerned, the human race is just one of a vast number of organic and inorganic forms, and it matters not to nature whether the world is a big inert lump or the living paradise into which we are fortunate to have been born. Sliding down the scale to that minute spot on the earth's surface where the Stansted people are dumping their rubbish, we see that nature is quite happy to populate the discarded trappings of modern life with all sorts of creepy-crawlies, and to welcome the heaps of garden rubbish as natural growbags for nettles and weeds.

Not all parasites, however, are freeloaders. There are many examples of symbiosis where two different organisms, one a host and the other a guest, co-exist to their mutual benefit. The simple message is that if mankind wants to continue to live on this planet we must live in harmony with, and not abuse nature. We are blessed with the gift of intelligence which enables us to understand this and the future is in our hands. And we must remember that nature is unforgiving. Where do the litter louts fit into all this? I am sorry to tell you that you don't.

Felix

SPRING IN THE AIR?

I think Spring is definitely in the air at the moment. We seem to have seen a lot of pregnant dogs and cats in the last month and also carried out a few caesareans, which, of course, usually happen in the middle of the night! Most people do a lot of research and give serious thought as to whether to breed from their dog or not. This is really important, as there are a number of inherited conditions that may be passed on. It is also important to consider the temperament of the dog and the impact a litter of puppies will have on family life, as well as the cost and trauma if things don't go smoothly. One of the most important conditions to test for is hip dysplasia, which requires an X-ray of the dog's hips to be taken under sedation or anaesthetic. Some breeds are more affected than others, eg German Shepherd dogs. Some breeds such as Border Collies have a high incidence of some inherited eye conditions and would require an eye test by an ophthalmologist before breeding should be considered, so you can see there is a lot to think about.

I think it's also important to dispel a few myths! The commonest one is that a bitch should have a litter of puppies before it is spayed. This is absolutely not true; there is no benefit to a bitch in having a litter of puppies - in fact if the worst happens and things don't go smoothly, she may end up needing a caesarean, which is definitely best avoided if you have a choice. I have also heard some people say that it will make a bitch more placid if she has puppies; again I can say that this is not the case. We do get a fair few cases every year of 'accidental matings'. You can be sure that where there is a bitch or female cat in season, there is a line of eager looking suitors outside the garden gate. Dogs in particular seem to develop super canine strength and leap high fences, or dig tunnels under garden walls in order to get to the often slightly bemused looking bitch. We have several panic phone calls from clients every year who have looked out of their kitchen windows to see a strange dog locked together with their bitch. This locking together business is also worth explaining, it is generally known as a 'tie', and it is when the bitch and dog remain together after the actual mating has finished and they can stay like it for quite a long time. Breeders often set great store by it, saying the longer the dogs are tied together the more puppies the bitch will have, but this is, however, another of those myths; bitches can have a good sized litter without a tie occurring at all. The most important thing is not to try and separate the two dogs by pulling them apart - men's eyes may be watering at this point - let them come apart in their own time!

If you have any questions about breeding from your pet or the tests that are involved, please contact us at the surgery as we are only too happy to chat with you and we also have a number of good information leaflets about breeding from animals and rearing puppies and kittens. I'll leave you with a couple of classified ads that are absolutely true:

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Ilse Pedler



MANUDEN GUIDES CELEBRATE THE GUIDING CENTENARY



A large group from Manuden Guides went off to Pax Lodge, the World Guide Centre in London, for a week-end of celebration. The weekend was led by a group of young volunteers from Canada, USA, Argentina, Greece, Austria, Ghana, Australia and Denmark, and we joined guide groups from Yorkshire and Northern Ireland, so we were able to find out about Guiding activities, games and songs from other places - bringing the international dimension of Guiding to life. We were able to go inside the gates of Buckingham Palace for a privileged view of the Changing of the Guard. We went on a sightseeing walk through central London, enjoying showing famous places to the girls who were visiting London for the first time. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the theatre visit to see 'Legally Blonde' and we were singing the songs for the rest of the weekend!



There was a flight on the London Eye, and a trip to Crystal Palace Park to visit the Maze, which has been replanted to celebrate the Guiding centenary. It was amazing how quickly many of the girls found their way to the centre, leaving the leaders increasingly more frustrated by the number of false turns they took! We eventually all made it, so that three girls could make their promise in such a special place, in such a special year - surely, they will always remember it. It was a wonderful weekend, from the crowded tube journey to get there on Friday evening, to the English afternoon tea we enjoyed just before we left on Sunday afternoon. There were many more experiences we shared, and, yet again, we felt proud and delighted to be part of such a wonderful organisation in its centenary year.

Glynis Prothero



BOTH SHAKEN AND STIRRED

For the last few weeks I have been trying to put into words one of the most terrifying experiences of my life. I wanted to write it down, not just for my own sake, but also in a way to help my poor country and its people. On 27th February 2010, Chile suffered one of the strongest earthquakes ever registered in the world. I was visiting my family and we were staying in a 15th Floor flat in Santiago. To my astonishment, when I came back to England, some of my friends asked if I felt the earthquake. Well, where I was, the quake was 8.5 on the Richter scale and lasted over three minutes. It was like being in a cocktail shaker, not knowing when this would stop or whether the building would collapse. Honestly, I thought that it was the end. I felt terrible anguish of thinking that I did not have time to say goodbye to my children but I am still here!! God gave me extra time and I want to do something for my beloved Chile.

I know that it was briefly in the news here for one or two days only. Then everyone forgot all about us. The fact is that experts think that there was not one earthquake but three followed by a tsunami. The strength was so terrible that the axis of the earth was moved by eight centimetres and it changed the geography of South America. It affected a vast area of about 800 miles and left many thousands of people homeless and with no source of income. The two towns where my family comes from were 90% destroyed. Both my grandparents' houses and those of several uncles and aunts collapsed, although fortunately no-one was hurt.

I know nowadays that we are bombarded by tragedies and maybe because of that, we have almost lost our sense of compassion. For that reason, I am so grateful to Ian and Teresa Priest and the Manuden Singers that they will give all the profit from their Picnic Concert on 25th July to the Chilean Earthquake Appeal. It would be lovely to see many of the people that I have been lucky to meet since I moved to England, and I know for sure that on the other side of the world, there will be many people grateful for your support.

Carmen Gloria Heap
Manuden

SUMMER PICNIC CONCERT with the VILLAGE VOICES and the COUNTY HIGH JAZZ BAND

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Stansted Cricket Club

The Club has continued its early season success with the 1st XI now top of Division 3 with five wins from the first six matches. The 2nd XI are now 6th in Division 6 with two wins from six. The club is also into the quarter-finals of the Cup after home wins against Birchanger and Langley. The Sunday XI has had one win from four matches to date. Significant contributions have been made by M Noori (111 and 78no), M Chambers (81), C Kirby (89 not out, 75 and 65), D Ayres (79 and 62 not out) and R Gardiner (64). John Reynolds, an U15 player, had a memorable senior debut against Thundridge, taking five wickets for 31 runs, a catch, and scoring 13 not out!

The Club is very pleased to have received sponsorship this season from RCA in the form of a set of shirts for the first team. In late July we will be holding a cricket week to mark our 150th anniversary, including matches against Stansted Hall (our nearest rivals), Harlow CC (our first opponents all those years ago), and a representative side from Essex Club and Ground CC. Home fixtures for July are:

Sat 3rd	13:30	1st XI v South Loughton II
Sun 4th	14:30	Sun XI v Birchanger
Sat 10th	13:30	2nd XI v Birchanger II
Sun 11th	13:00	Village Fun Day at Hargrave Park
Sat 17th	13:30	1st XI v Potter Street I
Sun 18th	14:30	Sun XI v Newport
Sat 24th	13:30	2nd XI v Thorley II
Sun 25th	11:30	Sun XI v President's XI

Cricket Week:

Tue 27th	14:00	SCC v Stansted Hall
Wed 28th	13:00	SCC v Essex Club & Ground CC
Thu 29th	14:00	SCC v Harlow CC
Sat 31st	13:30	2nd XI v Dunmow III

Look forward to seeing you at the Fun Day on Sunday 11th July to help us to celebrate our 150th anniversary (see Village Events page for more details).

David Hedge
Hon Secretary



Handy Hint for the Garden

Summer is the season for tying plants to bamboo canes and watering in the evenings, often in the fading light. No-one wants to poke his or her eye out, so place any empty small plastic bottle (eg children's fruit drinks, friendly-bacteria yoghurt drinks etc) over the end of the stick. The brighter colours will act as a warning to take care, they rattle in the wind to keep birds at bay, and at the end of the season the bottles can be put into the plastic recycling bin.

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

WORKING WITH OTHER COUNCILS

As the Parish Council has limited powers and money, although its power to raise money through the council tax is not limited by the Government, improving conditions and facilities in the parish requires argument, lobbying and occasionally a financial incentive to persuade councils such as Uttlesford and Essex to act.

This month we highlight the main areas in which Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is important to us. Essex County Council will be featured in a future edition.

Planning and Housing. All planning applications are determined by UDC (other than appeals). The Parish Council is notified of all plans and may send comments to the Development Control Committee or officers. Although the Council can make any comment, the only comments likely to carry weight are those which can be sustained under planning law so, for example, no-one is guaranteed a view but interruption of light or invasion of privacy should be upheld. Equally too, having many restaurants even of the same type is not a ground to refuse another, unless it is in a location where it may interfere with adjoining properties or lacks parking (nearby public car parking is acceptable).

The Labour Government increased housing density requirements, the results of which are evident around the village, as well as imposing housing targets with the Elsenham new town proposal a consequence. The new Government has indicated that it will return these sorts of decisions to local authorities - we shall see if it happens and if so what difference it makes.

Leisure. One of the responsibilities falling to UDC is the provision of facilities for leisure so for example the leisure centres are funded by the District Council. However, the availability of finance is now limited or non-existent so, to achieve any significant project, external funding is needed (one recent successful example is the all-weather sports area on Mountfitchet Road). Likewise, the Parish Council with voluntary fund-raising and grants has created the skateboarding facility off Lower Street. Similarly, we are

supportive of the aims of building adequate pitches for junior football but this is only achievable if land can be obtained on a long-term lease (or by purchase) and land on which planning approval can be obtained. Such permission was denied by both UDC and on appeal, for the land kindly offered at Bentfield Green. Discussions on another site remain on-going, as does an attempt to provide a substantial area of open space.

New Developments. Apart from determining which parish(es) take responsibility for Foresthall Park, UDC will want to negotiate with the Parish Council to take over its maintenance (grass-cutting, gardening, play areas and litter collection). This represents a substantial financial commitment and agreement needs to be reached on an adequate funding contribution from the developers.

Car Parking - on and off street. Crafton Green is owned by the Parish Council but operated by UDC (with revenues net of costs shared) while Lower Street is owned and operated by UDC (including the public convenience). Regulation of parking in terms of charges and enforcement of yellow lines is undertaken from Colchester by a joint council agency. The decision to put in new restrictions or to remove existing lines is the responsibility of Essex Highways.

It is the Parish Council's intention to produce information with the help of UDC and the Police explaining the policy towards parking on footpaths and who is responsible for enforcing particular restrictions.

Licensing. The decision to grant licences for the sale of alcoholic drinks, opening times and licenses to play music are the responsibility of the Licensing Authority - in this case Uttlesford District Council. The Parish Council neither has any responsibility nor is it consulted. If parishioners believe that licence conditions are being breached and the licensee does not agree, then the only remedy is to complain to the Licensing Authority.

STANSTED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The meeting of NhW on Wednesday May 26th was attended by several interested residents from the village. Martin Ford, who is the Community Safety Officer for Uttlesford, was invited to the meeting and he spoke of his work within the community. Residents asked questions which were answered by Mr Ford, also by Lyndsey Baillie who is the Essex Watch Administrator and Pc Tom Bastendorff, Stansted Police.

A discussion took place concerning the possible replacement of 13 NhW signs which are almost unreadable, replacing them with the newer version which are light reflective and are made of a more substantial material. This we intend to do as soon as possible. Highways are in the process of placing new large reflective NhW signs at the entrances to the villages and towns within Uttlesford. We hope that our six new signs will be in place very soon!

Richard Portway gave an update on the NhW website which he has established and is now up and running and used to great effect both by residents of Stansted and surrounding villages and the police. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that Richard has given to bring this website about.

We would like to thank the small number of loyal members of the public who give their support to our NhW meetings, and without their continued interest, it would be difficult to maintain our NhW group in the village.

Date of the next meeting, Wednesday September 29th 7.30pm. Venue to be announced.

Contacts; Cllr Valerie Trundle Tel: 01279 813433
Mrs Diane Roberts Tel: 01279 813089

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Preparations are well in hand and we hope that you have entered your gardens, hanging baskets and tubs etc to make Stansted in Bloom 2010 a real event in the life of the village.

The judging date is Saturday 3rd from 2.30pm onwards. It is hope to present prizes donated by various businesses in Stansted on the following Saturday July 10th in the afternoon. Venue and time to be arranged.

As stated in the May edition of the Link, during the month of June, we will be walking around the village looking out for prize winning gardens etc., as

well as taking into consideration any entries placed at the council offices.

Our three schools in Stansted are also taking part and their artwork will be placed in various shop windows around the village. Towards the end of the school term, we hope to be invited into the schools to present the children with appropriate prizes and/or vouchers that they can use as they wish to enhance their school surroundings.

Contacts: Cllr Valerie Trundle Tel: 01279 813433
Cllr Iris Evans 01279 815848
Mrs Joy Thomas 01279 813871

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

We are pleased to learn from the CAB that their outreach service in Stansted is proving beneficial to local residents. If you need support from the CAB, you can make an appointment to see one of their counsellors at the Youth Centre in Lower Street. The contact telephone number is 01799 526557. The Parish Council was very pleased to be able to assist in bringing the CAB to Stansted by funding the purchase of a laptop.

JUNIOR FOOTBALL

We were all sorry to read that Stansted Junior Football Club has reduced to one team. Since the Club's plans for a new home at Bentfield Green were refused, the Parish Council has continued in its efforts to find an alternative. One possibility sadly did not come to fruition as lease terms could not be agreed. However, we are in discussion with another landowner and that is on-going.

The Club has held discussions with Manuden to discuss the possibility of those players wishing to continue joining their team next season, so SJFC is still keen to hear from you with any enquiry - e-mail to info@stanstedjfc.co.uk. The Club has said it is appreciative of the Parish Council's continued attempts and hopes that these discussions will one day allow for the club to rightfully restore itself as one of the larges voluntary organisations within Stansted.

TESCO EXPRESS ... OR NOT SO FAST

Having seen no visible progress on Cambridge Road at the former B&R Carpet Shop, we wrote to Tesco to ask them what was happening. We received a reply which states

"We are still in due process at negotiating the last few points remaining to the fit-out of the above unit with the landlord and hope to be in a position

to commence our works over the next couple of months.”

We have made a diary note to contact them regularly for updates.

VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN – CAMBRIDGE ROAD

The installation of the flashing 30mph sign is yet to be completed on Cambridge Road. Essex County Council have recently carried out a site visit with a view to finding a more suitable location further into the village, possibly in the vicinity of The Three Colts as they feel this will have more effect in slowing down speeding traffic. A final decision is awaited.

LITTER COLLECTION

Most residents of our village are well aware of the good work undertaken by our litter collector, Gerard Frogley. It is a thankless task and there is never a quiet time of year. However, Gerard is entitled to holidays but is often reluctant to take them because the litter piles up during his absence. For some years we have been fortunate to have a volunteer who has helped out when Gerard is off and our grateful thanks go to him. However, we would like to officially appoint a relief litter collector so that Gerard can go away and forget about Stansted from time to time! If you are interested in helping out in this paid position, for up to five weeks per year, please contact the Council Offices.

On the subject of litter, it has recently been brought to our attention that there is a group of people who regularly meet on the Recreation Ground in the morning to walk their dogs. They are responsible dog owners and clear up not only after their pets, but I am told they go around picking up other people’s general litter too. Again, you must know who you are and we are very grateful to you.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

Electoral Aftermath

The electoral dust has settled and we have a new coalition government at Westminster. Coalitions are not new for local government and many local authorities such as Birmingham and Colchester currently have them. Firstly, congratulations to Sir Alan Haselhurst on being re-elected as Member of Parliament for the Saffron Walden Constituency. Whichever party or parties form the government it has significant consequences for local govern-

ment. The bulk of the money that local authorities receive comes from central government grant. The laws of the land Parliament makes and often it is down to local authorities to enforce them.

A lot of hard work was done by the council to ensure that the election was held efficiently. Boundary changes to the Saffron Walden parliamentary constituency meant that we took on the responsibility this time for organising the election within four wards of the Chelmsford Borough area as well as the whole of the Uttlesford district.

In total there were 95 polling stations in the constituency each of whom had to be staffed between 7 am and 10 pm. We employed, trained and paid 233 polling staff. At the count held at Saffron Walden we employed 49 counting staff and a variety of other staff totalling 80 people.

The Acting Returning Officer is the council official responsible for the efficient operation of the count. The Chief Executive, John Mitchell performs this role.

However, much of the work of organising elections in Uttlesford (parliamentary, european, county, district/parish) falls upon the shoulders of Peter Snow, the Council’s Committee and Electoral Services Manager. Mr. Snow has been involved in election work since 1974 and has been directly responsible for them since 1990. He says that he still enjoys them but the job of managing elections is much more difficult and stressful than it used to be. One significant change he highlighted has been the growth of postal voting. A total of 7,346 postal ballot papers were included in the general election count. Checking the signatures and dates of birth of postal voters is one of the most difficult and time consuming aspects of the election process.

Summary of points that may affect Uttlesford District Council contained in the Coalition Programme for Government.

Although it is very early days there are a number of measures announced by the new government which I welcome. There are a range of proposals that involve the devolving of power to councils to deliver for local people. These measures include:

- Promotion of decentralisation and democratic engagement and an end of the era of top-down government by giving new powers to local councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals.

- Promotion of the radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups.
- Rapidly abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and return decision-making powers on housing and planning to local councils. This will bring to an end regional housing targets.
- Reform of the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live.

The tone of the coalition's approach to local government and communities, a "fundamental shift of power from Westminster to people" is something most councillors would endorse. Greater financial independence for councils and community groups, powers for communities to take over services and a new "general power of competence" for councils. In other words, councils can do anything they like as long as its legal.

However, within the programme there are challenges for local government. A freeze on council tax for one year will put pressure on local authority's finances with inflation running at nearly 4 %. Increasingly, we will see councils seeking partnerships with neighbouring councils. Additionally, councils will wish to devolve the running of services to town and parish councils. This is already happening within Uttlesford.

Walson Way Play Area-Forestall Park

Although the play area is finished and ready for release now, officers at the district council are going through the necessary procedures to take it over. This involves checking the ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) assessment and agreeing the maintenance sum. The developer has been asked to open it to the public prior to its transfer, but they didn't want to take the insurance risk. Hopefully, the play area will be open in the very near future.

(Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

UTTLESFORD'S GOT TALENT?

A Talent Show is being held to raise funds for Uttlesford Community Travel. Entry forms will be available from the Parish Council. Entry cost is £5 and there is no age limit. Closing date for entries is 24 July. The talent show itself will be held at Foakes Hall in Dunmow on 1 October. Further information from Peter Toms: 07966884852

DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

7	Full Council
21 July	Finance & General Purposes
28 July	Full Council

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Uttlesford District Council Members

<i>Alan Dean</i>	Tel: 01279 813579
Email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Hudson</i>	Tel: 01279 814489
Email: cllrhudson@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>John Salmon</i>	Tel: 01279 814789
Email: cllrsalmon@uttlesford.gov.uk	
<i>Geoffrey Sell</i>	Tel: 01279 815925
Email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk	

Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk	

Member of Parliament

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

Police

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Catherine Dean	813579
Iris Evans	815848
Jo Freeman	812524
Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489
Peter Jones	813252
Janice Loughlin	812346
Tudor Owen	812825
Ruth Rawlinson - <i>V/Chairman</i>	814222
Jonathan Rich	813112
John Salmon	814789
Dan Scott	815098
Geoffrey Sell - <i>Chairman</i>	815925



STANSTED SCOUTS

Gold award

Like buses, you wait for ages for a Gold Award, then two come along together. Well done to both Fraser Arnold and Sam Byrne for gaining their Chief Scout's Gold Award, the top award in the Scout section. To achieve this, they had to complete different challenges during their time in the Scout section. These challenges, completed over time, were: Creative, Global, Outdoor, Promise, Fitness, Community, along with the Adventure and Outdoor Plus. Both Scouts have taken part in numerous adventurous activities and many camps, at Troop, District and County level. Fraser is also attending the World Jamboree in Sweden next year.

Hike

As part of the Essex Scouts' 2010 challenge, we completed a 13½ mile sponsored hike for Sport Relief. Our route was along the Flitch Way. We set off on a pleasant Saturday morning (thunder was forecast but the rain held off all day) and soon found ourselves in a clearing, which was the perfect place for an investiture. Two new Scouts were duly invested and we set off for the next stopping point, for lunch. The ground was good to firm as they say until the Dunmow cutting, where it was decidedly boggy. Good progress was made, as we allowed six hours which included a lunch break, and I'm pleased to say we turned up at the finish point a mere ten minutes late. We raised £500. Good going, guys.

Homeless night

As part of Beliefs & Attitudes we discussed being homeless. We then arranged a night under the stars. In cardboard boxes (or bits of cardboard for some) we slept outside to see what it might be like to sleep on the streets. The previous few nights had seen a frost but on our night we were spared from such hardship! A few hours sleep were eventually had, with the less tired waking from 5.30am. Unlike sleeping on the streets, breakfast was provided. Sausage and egg with beans and mash, just what you need to warm up, with everyone agreeing they did not want to sleep 'rough'.

District Camp

We have just returned from our Annual District Camp held in Hatfield Forest over the late bank

holiday weekend. This training camp has the Scouts in groups of six, where they pitch their own tents on the Friday evening, look after their sites, cook for themselves, take part in the activities, and hopefully have some fun while being outdoors in the fresh air. Activities are arranged all weekend with a day hike around the Forest visiting various activity bases on the Sunday. A campfire with singing was enjoyed, even by those that can't sing! More activities on Monday with (thankfully this year) nice dry canvas coming down in the afternoon. The Forest was donated to the National Trust in 1924, with one of the stipulations being that Scouts and Guides could continue to camp there. We are going camping again in July, this time to Thetford Forest. Some Scouts are going sailing at the end of June and we have the Shooting Competition to defend in July. Any adults that may want to join our adventures, give us a ring.



District Camp

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 812780

MISSING – CAN YOU HELP?

Two of our oil drum barbecues are missing. We don't mind other people using them, but please return them. Thank you for your help.



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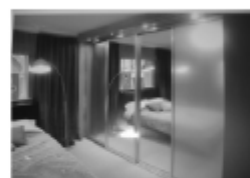
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494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

This month at 494 Squadron Stansted Air Cadets we have done many things ranging from field craft to gliding to voluntary help at the Race for Life events that have been taking place in Essex. Occasionally we are given flying opportunities, which let us go up in a Grob Tutor with an experienced pilot. We get to pilot the plane ourselves under their tuition and we are allowed to do aerobatics. We also get slots for gliding where you go up with an experienced pilot and glide around the skies for however long you can stay up there for! The flying is completely free and great fun. Some older cadets can apply for a gliding scholarship, which is a week-long course in the summer where at the end you can pilot the glider solo.

We have done a lot of voluntary work at the Race for Life events around Essex and we raised money for our Squadron at Elsenham Fête by putting our cadets in the stocks to receive wet sponges and also by selling cakes and plants. The Race for Life organisers were very happy to receive our help from setting up and marshalling the race.



Some of our cadets went for a weekend away at an Army base in Pirbright where they were given the chance to do rock climbing, shooting, archery, team building activities and much more. Later this month some of our older cadets are off to do their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award practice expedition in the Lake District. This involves four days of walking and three nights of camping. This requires them to navigate themselves across the hills by themselves over about an 18 kilometre distance each day and one night they will be wild camping by a lake.

We meet twice a week on Monday and Friday nights where we do a range of activities from sports, to field craft to drill. It's a great way to meet new friends and the opportunities are almost endless. If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, contact us for more information - telephone 681559/661929 Mondays and Fridays 7.15-9.30 hrs (24 hr Answer phone). Email: 494@aircadets.org.

Cadet Tom Nicholson

STANSTED AIRPORT – THE FUTURE

On 24th April BAA announced that it had withdrawn its planning application for a second runway at Stansted Airport. This is the best news our village has received for many years. In July 2002 the Government published its consultation document 'The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East.' It proposed up to four runways at Stansted which would have resulted in the airport becoming the largest in Europe with a capacity of at least 746,000 aircraft movements pa. Following a so-called 'Consultation', the Government published its White Paper in December 2003 proposing an additional runway spaced 2.2km from the existing one. If the second runway had been built, our village would not have existed; the airport would have grown to be 40% larger than Heathrow is today. We were very lucky. Stop Stansted Expansion was formed in August 2002 and spearheaded an opposition campaign. The majority of the community thought that whatever we did the Government would get its way, that it was a done deal and that the new runways already existed under grass, so why oppose it; we could not stop it.

As we all now know, BAA has withdrawn its planning application and that our new Government will not allow more runways to be built in the South East but, we must ask, for how long? History has shown that this issue will be re-opened at some time. My guess is that we won't see new runways being proposed for at least ten years. I am confident other issues will come into view and existing issues become much stronger. We can expect the 'Climate Change' to strengthen as the years progress. We can expect oil prices to significantly increase in the future. I don't think that we should expect new technologies to be developed enabling jet engines to alternative fuels. Maybe we can expect the aviation industry to be taxed like all other industries. All of this to me means higher aviation costs and reduced demand. What I would like to see is the Government and the aviation industry signing-up to a very long term agreement that they will not seek more runways to be built for at least two generations; is this an unreasonable dream? Eight years ago I had a dream that another runway would not be allowed. That dream came true on Monday 24th May 2010. I hope my new dream comes true for the sake of future generations.

Ray Woodcock

Tel: 816468

Email: Raymond.Woodcock@BTopenworld.com



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

We are holding a Cultural Lunch on Sunday 18th July from 1.00 pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens Stansted. Tickets are £10 adults and £4 children, to include a buffet lunch with live music and poetry entertainment. Everyone is most welcome. Tickets and further information from Catherine Dean, tel 813579, or Ruth Rawlinson, tel 814222.

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Stop Stansted Expansion? Yes We Did!

Stop Stansted Expansion is about to organise the biggest party in its history following BAA's humiliating climbdown over its plans for a second Stansted runway. BAA finally surrendered its position on 24th May, formally withdrawing its planning application for a second Stansted runway which, if approved, would have made the airport bigger than Heathrow. The second runway planning application had taken BAA more than four years to prepare and cost the airport operator some £200 million. However this is just a fraction of the cost to local homeowners in terms of the property blight which has plagued the local area for the past eight years, destroying the value of people's homes but worse still, destroying long established communities. Whilst SSE is delighted that BAA has finally faced up to realities and withdrawn its planning application, this is tinged with sadness and anger over the unnecessary damage which has been inflicted upon the area and the anguish that has been caused to so many local communities.

SSE will now be pressing BAA for three immediate actions:

- BAA must sell back all the homes and other properties it acquired in connection with its second runway plans, offering the original owners the first option to buy back;
- BAA should issue a public apology to all the local homeowners who were served with draft compulsory purchase orders in March 2008 and who have since been living under the constant threat of the bulldozer. The apology should then be followed by proper compensation;
- Having needlessly, recklessly and irresponsibly created eight years of blight, BAA and any future owner of Stansted should be prohibited from building a second runway at Stansted for at least 50 years.

This is a day to rejoice. It is not every day that a local community is victorious over powerful big business interests – and they don't come much bigger and more powerful than BAA. I would therefore like to pay tribute to all those who have fought so hard for so long to achieve this famous victory. When we set up SSE in 2002, we were told by many that "we couldn't stop a second runway; it was a done deal - we were wasting our time". It turns out that it's BAA who has been wasting its time, as well as £200 million of its shareholders' money. Our task now is to ensure that we never have to go through all this again. The Government will be producing a new long-term policy for the UK's airports next year. SSE's final mission is to work with politicians, civil servants and others over the next 12–18 months to ensure that a second runway at Stansted forms no part of the long-term plan for the development of the UK's airports.

SSE Embarks on Final Mission

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has launched the final stage of its campaign against major expansion at Stansted Airport. The key message of SSE's new initiative is 'NEVER AGAIN, but we'll settle for 50 years' and the objective is to secure a commitment that no additional runways will be permitted at Stansted until 2060 at the earliest. SSE's first action has been

to write to BAA Chief Executive, Colin Matthews, setting out the justification for the moratorium, as follows:

'The people of this area have lived under the threat of a further runway or runways at Stansted Airport for almost half a century. On four separate occasions since the early 1960s we have had to mobilise, raise funds and expend enormous amounts of time and energy, fighting one public inquiry after another in order to defeat the threat. On each of those four occasions we have ultimately won the argument, but only to find that the same or similar plans for an additional runway or runways at Stansted are resurrected a decade or so later. We believe this is profoundly unfair and that it is time to say that "enough is enough". In 1979 BAA provided the people living in the vicinity of Gatwick Airport with long-term peace of mind by entering into a legally binding agreement with the local planning authority that it would not build a second Gatwick runway for a period of at least 40 years, i.e. before 2019. We believe that it is now Stansted's turn to have long term peace of mind and for the reasons we have explained above we regard 50 years as the appropriate duration for a Stansted moratorium.'

SSE wants to see a commitment to a 50 year moratorium on any new runways at Stansted included in the Government's new National Policy Statement on airports, due to be published in draft form early next year. This will largely determine the long term future for Stansted and will be finalised following public consultation in 2011. We want to ensure that the local community is fully aware of the importance of the forthcoming National Policy Statement and its new campaign is designed to raise local awareness so that as many people as possible respond to next year's public consultation. As part of the build-up to this, the 'NEVER AGAIN' theme will feature prominently in a new poster campaign. Over the coming months SSE will also be aiming to enlist support for its efforts from all relevant local authorities in the vicinity of Stansted Airport as well from local MPs and all East of England MEPs, meeting Government Ministers and other leading politicians to press the case for a 50 year moratorium on major expansion at Stansted Airport.

Peter Sanders
Chairman

Tel: 870558

Email: petersanders77@btinternet.com

Carol Barbone

Campaign Director

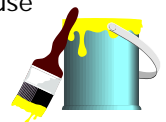
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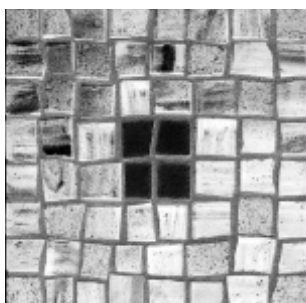
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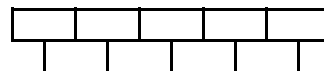
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STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

This month I would like to start by wishing a very warm welcome to both our new and returning members, and in particular to our new young members. The lifeblood of any club is, of course, vested in young members, and we are very fortunate in having experienced coaches and players to help and nurture this new talent. On behalf of all the Committee and myself, we wish you all many happy hours of bowling at the Club and in the various competitions that you enter. To all you non-bowlers reading this article: if you would like to come along and see what we're all about, please feel free to pop along to the Club, which is situated in Recreation Road, just off Chapel Hill, on any Friday evening from about 6.30pm where we will be delighted to meet you and give you the opportunity to 'try your hand'.

We were very pleased with the results in the early stages of the various competitions the Club has entered and, in particular our 'A' team in the NWE League, who have got off to a cracking start having won three of their four matches to date. Our 'B' team in this league, which was only formed this year, and has several members who have been playing bowls for only a year or so, have also had very respectable results, having won and drawn, two of the four games they have so far played. Our Ladies Team, capably led by their Captain, Margaret Hill, have had some excellent results with wins over Hertford Castle (19-15) Dunmow (35-19) and Much Hadham (36-26). Our Ladies Team is urgently seeking new members. If you are interested please contact Margaret Hill on 814359. Well done and thanks to every one who has either bowled and/or supported our teams to date.



On the social side, our membership has shown excellent growth and, for a very modest sum of only £6.50 for a year's membership, it represents excellent value. We have a comfortable and welcoming Clubhouse and a good selection of beers, spirits and non-alcoholic drinks at very competitive prices. Why not come along on any Friday evening and see for yourself? As we know you will appreciate, this is a private club and therefore we reserve the right to refuse admission to non-members.

Congratulations are in order to Pat Perry, who has recently passed her catering course at Harlow College. Well done Pat and please carry on with the excellent work you do for the Club, the Club bowling and Ladies' Teams and, of course, your culinary expertise. Your hard work and dedication is

very much appreciated by all. Whilst in a congratulatory frame, I must again, on behalf of both Club members and Committee, thank Roy Barnes and his dedicated team of helpers who have maintained the Bowling Green in such a fine and playable condition.

Edward Taub
Secretary

Tel: 816932

Email: ebtaub@gmail.com

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect
of the night sky.



The Earth is the only planet in the Universe where we have to look down to see and study. It is about 4800 million years old (as, probably, are all the other planets) and is the home of millions of species of fauna and flora and has been the home to much more from very ancient times. Impressive as the age of the Earth is, it is still yet to have settled down to a state of inertia as the last four or five years have reminded us. The young Earth was a blazing blob of molten rock and metals and has been cooling ever since, but the interior of the Earth is still very hot indeed. It is about 4000 miles to the centre of the Earth but if you ever get to go to an African gold or diamond mine just two miles down you will feel the considerable heat of the Earth (not the sun) rising from within. That's about 3998 miles from the centre.

We float on vast rafts of rock, known as plates. They are moving all the time, sometimes towards each other, and it is when these plates have pushed at each other, sometimes for many years, when the problems start and an earthquake takes place. The plates do not break, but one slides under the other, shaking vast areas of land. This layering of plates is known as subduction. If this movement happens under the sea, it sucks in a vast amount of water then squeezes it out and a tsunami results, sometime carrying water halfway round the world.

Subduction was discovered in the '60s and since then it has been further discovered that all the oceans have a network of seams, rather like the rough side of some sewing. This is the result of plates rearing up to each other. This has happened so often that all the oceans have seams, thousands of feet higher than the surrounding seabed and sometimes high enough to create islands. And, just for good measure, the Earth has its own pressure valves dotted around the world. They are, of course, the volcanoes. Seismometers, which note and measure the Earth's smallest grumbles, are placed all over the globe and are co-ordinated so that everyone can have a world view. But, as we have seen recently, the Earth might tell us what, but not when.

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MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

'Tropical Tresco – The Abbey Gardens' was the subject of our May meeting. Our speaker, Mr Robin Carsberg, gave members a photographic tour around the gardens. Having visited the Isles of Scilly on numerous occasions, members had the opportunity to see photographs of the gardens at various times throughout the year. In 1049-45 monks arrived on Tresco and, encouraged by King Henry I, built St Nicholas' Priory – it was a wealthy priory linked to the Benedictine Abbey in Tavistock, Devon. Unfortunately, it did not fare so well under Henry VIII, and fell into disrepair. In 1834 Augustus Smith left Hertfordshire and took up the position of Lord Proprietor and commenced building a family home adjacent to the ruins of the Abbey. At the same time he started to create the Abbey Gardens. The warm Gulf Stream climate helps create a tropical microclimate. However, it can suffer from the gale force winds that blow off the Atlantic Ocean – in 1990 winds of 127mph hit the Isles of Scilly and 90% of the shelter belt was destroyed – 800 trees were lost in four hours! The garden is terraced and plants from as far afield as New Zealand and Norfolk Island jostle for space with plants from other temperate/tropical areas of the world – the Mediterranean, the Canary Islands, South Africa, South America, Australia – there are over 20,000 exotic plants growing in the gardens. Our speaker summarised the gardens as "a horticultural world tour in just 17 acres".

'Chasing The Cherry Blossom – A Pictorial Tour of Japan' was June's topic. Mr Don Gardiner explained that if you overlaid a map of Japan onto Europe/North Africa (using the same latitudes) the 'bottom' island would be level with the Nile Delta and the 'top' would be in the Italian Alps. In the subtropical islands of Okinawa the blossom opens as early as January whilst on the northern island of Hokkaido, it can bloom as late as late-May. The cherry blossom (Sakura) is very popular and is the unofficial national flower held in high regard in Japanese culture. The Japanese celebrate Hanami (cherry blossom viewing) with parties, picnics etc and he explained that plastic sheets are often put on the ground before 8.00am in order to save a space ... very reminiscent of sun beds being reserved around swimming pools!!!

July Meeting (7th) - Please note that the Club will not be holding this meeting at the Day Centre – we will be visiting 'Dragons', a garden at Boyton Cross (between Hatfield Heath & Chelmsford). Members to meet at the garden for 7.30pm. The postcode for SatNav drivers is CM1 4LS.

August Meeting (4th) – Our speaker will be Mr Peter Jackson of Scotsdale Garden Centre who will talk about 'Plants for Winter Interest'. If you want more information about the club and its programme of events please see our website. We look forward to welcoming you to our meetings.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman



Together with the Stansted Health Visiting Team we would like to introduce Breast Start, a weekly breast feeding support group starting on Friday June 25th from 10.00am-12 noon. Meet other breast-feeding mums in comfortable and friendly surroundings. Members of the Health Visiting Team or Children's Centre staff will be available. For further information call Stansted Baby Clinic 814805 or Spangles Children's Centre 812348.

Extension works

Many of you may have noticed the beginnings of our new entrance extension. The much needed and eagerly awaited building will provide better access and improve the security for all those who use the Children's Centre. We are pleased to say that on completion, expected early in September, the Health Visiting Team will be joining us to run the baby weighing clinic and the Children's Centre staff will be running a baby group at the same time. More details will be included in our new timetable, which will be announced to coincide with the opening of the new reception area. Meanwhile we are working with the contractors in order to complete the build on time and subsequently some of our services have to be suspended. Please accept our apologies and keep a watchful eye on the website:

www.spangleschildrenscentre.org for more information regarding suspended sessions and details of local alternative events.

Amanda Fitchett

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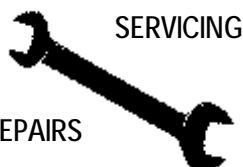
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Our first Open Day since refurbishment on 31st May, was attended by over 100 people, many local and including numerous children. The wind blew and the sails turned, giving assurance that there is life in the old giant. At the time of writing the Millers are preparing for a gathering of Mill enthusiasts on 19th June when there is an additional public opening.

As Michael Caine would say "not a lot of people know this" but the Windmill has for some time had its own website: www.stanstedmillers.co.uk. This gives much information about the history of the Mill, a virtual tour inside and opening times for open days. It also has a link to the Parish Council website recording a detailed 'blog' which shows the day by day progress of exactly how £210,000 has been spent on the Mill's refurbishment. You can also find out how you can subscribe to the Stansted Millers at a very modest cost. Whilst you can simply join as a 'Miller' and help fund the ongoing upkeep and maintenance, we also always need volunteers for stewarding on open days. If you have an inclination to help operate and maintain the Mill, we also need to build up this team! You can also contact info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk or pick up a Miller's application form at the Parish Council offices or at the Mill on open days.

The usual Bank Holiday Fete will take place on 30th August when we hope both sun and wind will oblige.

Alan Williams and Derek Honour

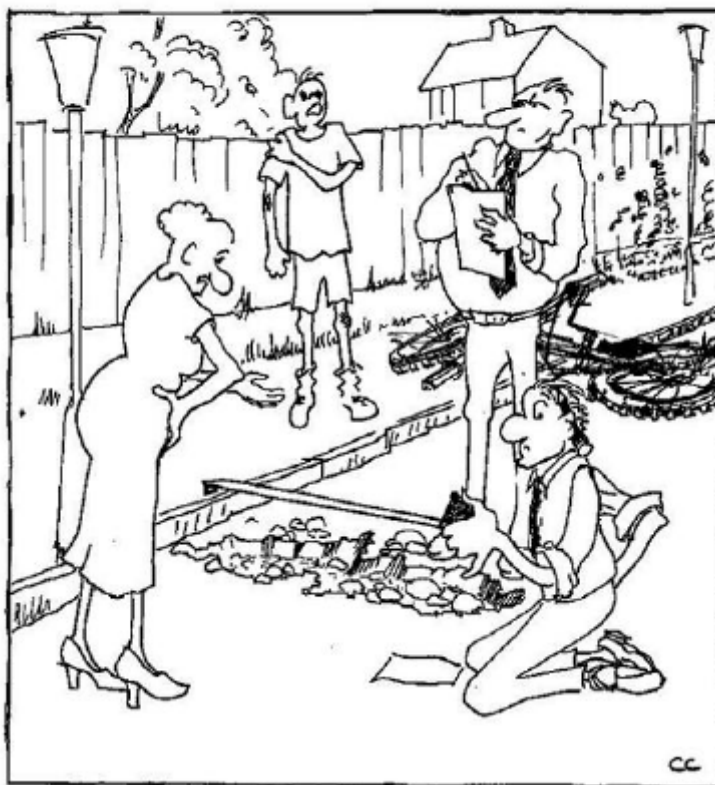
PTA News

Hooray...the sun shone and a great time was had by all at this year's May Fair. The theme was 'Recycling' and there were lots of ideas for turning junk into great stuff. From old socks into men with growing, grass hair – oceans in a bottle and fish from old CDs. We also created a giant butterfly picture with old carrier bags. Some children joined the parade of recycled fashion and fancy dress with some very ingenious ideas. The children loved the fact that the Deputy Head, Mr Rodgers, was in the stocks and allowed wet sponges to be thrown at him for a large part of the afternoon. The event raised over £1000, so a big thank you goes to all those who helped on the stalls, set up and put away and those who donated prizes to the raffle.

We now look forward to the annual Music in the Park on Saturday 10th July and hope to be blessed with similar weather. The following acts are returning following their success at last years event: 'The Croft', 'All of a Sudden', and 'Repertoire Dogs', and we have many bands who are new to the fun-filled day. We will have the usual barbeque, drinks tent, sweet stalls and the famous bouncy castle fun run. Gates open at 1.30pm and the first band is on stage at 2.00pm. Tickets are £8.00 advance or £9.00 on the day. For under 16s admission is free; however, all children must be accompanied by a fee-paying adult. For advance tickets, please call me on 815496.

Kerry Freegard

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Many thanks to those who attended the coffee morning at Crafton Green recently, which raised funds for the Hospice. Thank you, too, to those who supplied the very tasty cakes and the raffle prizes and helped on the day. Several locals came in for a coffee and a chat and two kind ladies offered to hypothetically 'rattle' a tin when St Clare Hospice is collecting in Bishop's Stortford. Thank you, too, to the organisers of the Stansted Fun Run for choosing St Clare Hospice as one of the charities to benefit from the funds raised by the event.

As the level of our grant funding from the NHS falls again this year the Hospice face the even greater challenge to raise funds to pay for our services each year. The Hospice is committed to developing services to care for patients in their own homes. The Trustees, too, as part of our Five Year Strategy, have committed to the first stage of the plans to develop our building at Hastingwood to enable our planned service development. The challenge to raise the capital while still raising the revenue to fund our existing services will be even greater. However, with your continuing support we will succeed. Can I please ask that posters on display boards around Stansted to publicise a Hospice event are not removed before the date of the event as there are cost implications for the Hospice to replace them. Finally, thank you for your continuing support and involvement with the Hospice it is greatly appreciated by St Clare and our service users. If you would like to know more about the work of the Hospice or would like a talk given to your Group please do not hesitate to contact me.

Caroline Bore
Tel: 773750

Email: Caroline.bore@stclarehospice.org.uk

MANUDEN SINGERS

25 Years and a Decade of Village Glyndebournes

25 years ago a small group of singers met in the Regency elegance of Cleeve Hall Manuden. In 1997 Ian Priest took over as the choir's conductor and established the practice of donating their concert proceeds to local charities, whilst at the same time striving for the highest possible standard of performance. He instigated the tradition of three concerts a year, one of these to be the now famous summer picnic concert grandly entitled 'A Village Glyndebourne' when the audience bring their own picnics. The first Glyndebourne in 1997 was very memorable, as choir and audience got truly soaked. In 2010 we approach our tenth Glyndebourne. Why not come and swell the audience in July, when we have a leaning towards G&S, which is always great fun?

For other concerts, perhaps of a more serious nature, the walls of Manuden Church have echoed with works from Handel to Vaughan Williams. A great triumph was Handel's 'Messiah' which received a standing ovation and raised an amazing £2000 for the church. In recent years the Manuden Players have performed with us in a variety of venues from local village churches to the Chilean Embassy in London. In the last six years the choir has donated a sum in the region of £16,000 to numerous charities. Our next concert is the Tenth

Village Glyndebourne to be held in the gardens of Wilford House, 70 The Street, Manuden on Sunday 25th July. Gates open 6.00pm, concert starts at 6.30pm. Tickets £10, children £5, can be obtained by post from Fiona Bengtsen 812157, or on the door. The proceeds of this concert will go to the Chilean Earthquake Appeal as one of our members was in a block of flats with his Chilean wife at the time and experienced the terror and devastation. The choir is small in number with an average of 30 to 35 members. We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic singers. If interested please ring Ian Priest on 647050.

Teresa Priest



STANSTED BEAVERS

In April two of our older Beavers had the opportunity to take part in a sleepover with other Beavers from the Hatfield Forest district. The theme was 'Knights and Dragons', and the action-packed programme included making their own swords, shields and helmets, a dragon hunt and a play based on the story of St George and the Dragon. The highlight, however, was going to sleep in their tents (which they did do, eventually ...). All the Beavers have been working towards their Fitness Challenge badge recently, so we have been learning about exercising and eating healthily. We even held our own Mini-Olympics! We have also been thinking about people who help us in the community, as part of the Friendship challenge. Most recently the Beavers joined in another District outing, this time to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, which they all enjoyed immensely.



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STANSTED LUNCH CLUB

May Lunch (50 guests and over 100 apologies)

Sherie Griffiths of Savvy Business Community returned to Table 1, as she promised last year, to report on the year that had followed the launch of Savvy in May 2009. She told us of some of the problems which had assailed her business; of personal problems which had exacerbated the situation; of fundamental structural changes that had had to be introduced to the business to direct it more firmly towards its goals, which themselves were modified. Altogether it was a fascinating story of willingness to listen to advice, of courage, and of determination. Savvy has turned the corner and is now moving forward on its modified course. More can be learned of Savvy at www.savvybc.com.

I have always felt that the custom of buying cakes for colleagues when work coincides with birthdays is a dry and mundane practice so, as this misfortune overtook me on 19th May, I felt impelled to provide something more fluid. I shall long remember the response to my 'coming of age' which included a magnificent card from our excellent hosts at Pearse House. A warm thank you to all! The welcome, the food and the service at Pearse, now so much part of the wallpaper, did nothing to sully its record of excellence.

Sponsorship

There are three more lunches in 2010 all of which are being sponsored, which is good but I do need support in 2011 and I should be most grateful if prospective sponsors would contact me. For the sponsor, sponsorship raises the local profile of its business at relatively small cost. There is a modest contribution to administrative costs which earns the privileges of being warmly thanked; of generally being treated with respect; of having electronic literature distributed with invitations; of speaking lightly and humorously on some topic associated with the sponsor's business (no overt sales pitches are allowed). In addition to the contribution to administrative costs, there is an optional contribution or subsidy which goes directly towards the cost of lunch and to the cost of each member's lunch. For this the sponsor earns even warmer thanks and respect, the temperature of the thanks being directly proportionate to the amount of subsidy (typically the level of subsidy ranges between £5 and £10 per member attending a lunch).

Future Lunches

14th July - St Clare Hospice (Weston Business Centres)
29th September - Potheary Witham Weld
17th November - Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers

Forthcoming Events

At this time of year, Barry Root organises many racing events through Essex Racing Club. If you are an enthusiastic punter contact him, email essexracingclub@btinternet.com or call 07721 530205.



Alastair Richardson
Tel: 07850 295109
Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com



New Youth Club at Grove Cottage

One of Grove Cottage aims is to help people with learning disability avoid social isolation in later life by encouraging



lifelong friendships. Children can join a Saturday Club when they are three and then pass through a series of clubs which allows them to develop friendships with other local children. Children with learning disability in our area go to schools in Stevenage, Stanstead Abbots, Harlow, Saffron

Walden and Chelmsford so it is difficult to meet school friends after school. Parents have told us that by the time children reach 14 they want an after-school activity but until now, nothing was available. This month Grove Cottage opened a Youth Club for 14-25 year olds on Tuesday evening to bridge the transition from school to adulthood. We have started with seven members but hope that the club will quickly expand. The fact that people travel from Ware and Hertford shows how much this service is needed. Anyone interested in taking part should contact Kathy Mitchell on 718563.

Now that the weather has improved we have been able to take our members on outings. The youngest children had a trip to Paradise Wildlife Park and the older children went to Willow Farm. These weekend trips gave the families a full day of respite for which they were very grateful. Adult members of the Wednesday Club spent a Sunday at the Hertfordshire County Show. If you care for someone with learning disability and would like to know more about this charity visit www.mencapgrovecottage.org or telephone 656085.

David Scott

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If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk or send the form below 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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