

# Stansted Mountfitchet

# The Link



p35



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**EDITORIAL**



In recent editorials we have drawn attention to speeding, parking and seats. There is cause for encouragement on some of these but, particularly on traffic matters, we can say "could do better". The 'Slow Down' signs come on with disturbing regularity and there is still too much half-parking (and consequent obstruction) on pavements. It is good to know that the Parish Council and police are working on these issues but it will be really cheering when we, the residents, can remark on a significant improvement. With public seats, the Editor is not allowed to forget that there is still a 'seat desert' at Burton End. A seat is an excellent subject for a legacy so perhaps the next decade will see one or two more appearing in the deprived areas.

Our magazine has declared an amnesty in its Pothole Contest in deference to the demands caused by the hard winter on the County Council's resources, but as some of these are spectacular if not dangerous we should like to see more hard evidence of repairs during the summer. On page 29 we have a photograph which illustrates the problem in Water Lane, as described in the 'Network' section.

**CIRCULATION:**

The Link is delivered free to 2900 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for 50p each or £5.00 for the year.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

by email (*preferred*) to:  
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or by hand to:  
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CM24 8AH

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

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

**CONTENTS**

Thought for the Month	2	Stansted Cricket Club	23
Church News	2-4	Stansted Tennis Club	25
Stansted Fun Run	4	The Big Toddle	25
Village Events	5	'Link' Articles	25
Mountfitchet Mathematics		Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill	27
and Computing College	7	Bentfield Primary School PTA	27
Stansted Football Club	7	Stansted Fun Run	27
Stansted Evening WI	9	Spangles Children's Centre	27
Ugley WI	9	Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	29
Public Notice	9	Potholes (again)	29
How to give a Cat a Tablet	11	Rainbow Pre-School	29
Hatfield Forest Highlights	11	494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron	
National Childbirth Trust	13	Air Training Corps	31
Stansted Bowling Club	13	Stansted Mountfitchet Local	
Grove Cottage - Profile	14	History Society	31
Stop Stansted Expansion	15	St Mary's Primary School	33
Stansted network	17-20	The Gardens of Easton Lodge	
St Clare Hospice	21	Preservation Trust	35
For Your Information	21	Nature Notes	35
Skywatch	21	Index to Advertisers	36
Saffron Walden Arts Festival	23		

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

“The Unity of Christians never did, nor ever will or can stand in uniformity of thought and opinion, but in Christian love only.”

This quotation from Quaker Faith and Practice was written in 1737 and still expresses what Quakers believe. I think I would like to add that we all share Faith and Hope too. During the next month there are two extra and important opportunities to share our faith. On 20th June there is the Songs of Praise in the Memorial Gardens; as well as all the denominations in Stansted taking part, we are hoping to be joined by members of the Church of the Seraphim and Cherubim from Birmingham. Our link with them goes back many years, and the exuberance and sincerity of their worship has always given us an uplift on our visits to them, and we look forward to their contribution on 20th June. The other important event is the annual Bradwell Pilgrimage on 3rd July. This is an ecumenical pilgrimage to the ancient church of St Peter by the sea wall of the estuary. It was founded in 654 by St Cedd who sailed there by coracle from Lindisfarne. Members of churches from all over Essex come to celebrate that this small church has stood like a rock withstanding all the human trials as well as the batterings of the east wind off the North Sea. The Pilgrimage begins with a short service in Bradwell village before the two mile walk to St Peter's. On the large green area by the church the main service takes place. The leading representatives of all the denominations in Essex take part in the service, as well as having a main speaker. There is great delight that this year's speaker will be Archbishop Sentamu of York. I have been several times over the years and it is an amazing experience - an informal and happy atmosphere in which to celebrate the existence and survival of this ancient church, a powerful expression of the Faith, Hope and Love that we all share.



Katharine Hurford  
Stansted Society of Friends



## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC  
Chapel Hill

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

### Ministers

Rev'd Allen Morton  
Tel: 757635  
[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

Rev'd David Mullins  
Tel: 654475  
[minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Lettings

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

### Preachers for June

6th 10.30am The Worship Team – New Directions  
13th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins  
20th 10.30am Rev'd Allen Morton – Communion  
27th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe. **This service may be cancelled because of the Fun Run – please watch our noticeboard.**



SHALOM

At 8.00pm on Monday 14th June, Rev'd Giles Tulk will be talking about 'How does the church respond to 21st century society?' This meeting will be at 7 Blythwood Gardens. On 28th June at 8.00pm, our 'At home' will be at Phyllis Harrison's house - The White House, Ugley Green (tel 813535). All are welcome.

Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059



## THE BIG SING

Everyone is invited to sing favourite hymns accompanied by Bishop's Stortford Town Band in the Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill at 4.00pm on Sunday 20th June. We will also welcome visitors from the Cherubim and Seraphim Church in Birmingham, who will sing some of their rousing choruses. Please bring a chair if you wish to sit, and join us for tea and cake in St John's Church Hall afterwards. If wet, the event will be in St John's Church.

Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane

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

<b>Masses</b>	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	9.00am and 10.30am
	Holy Days of Obligation	8.00am and 8.00pm
	Tuesday-Saturday	9.30am

<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday	10.00am
		and by appointment

<b>Baptisms</b>	By appointment
-----------------	----------------



## Midsummer Event – 17th to 20th June. Church open 11.00am until 5.00pm each day.

The response to our approach to village organisations has been very encouraging and we look forward to seeing both old inhabitants and newer residents in St Mary's to view the exhibition and listen to the music. The 'oldies' will enjoy reminiscing and meeting up with old friends, while we hope that the younger villagers will like to learn something of how the community, in which we all live, has grown over the years. We are still asking for memorabilia – photographs, programmes, cups and medals – whatever you have stored away. We would be very pleased to have items for the 'Sporting Achievements' stand and for 'Stansted had Talent' with records of the pageants, plays, Operatic Society, etc. Can you produce a Three Generations photograph? School groups are always a good talking point. Please make sure you mark any items you lend to us; if you prefer to send copies of precious pictures rather than originals, we will still like to have them for display. Our flower arrangers will be grateful for financial contributions towards the flowers. If you would like to sponsor a tribute in memory of a local family in this way, we will see that the arrangement carries the family name. It is surprising how many family names go back a long way in Stansted.

We are expecting good audiences at the three concerts. We are particularly pleased that the Stansted Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College are taking part in the lunchtime concerts at 1.30pm on Thursday and Friday, and we look forward to sharing in the audience participation items on Keith Turner's 'These You Have Loved' on Saturday afternoon at 4.00pm. Union Jacks have already been provided!! This national event, taking place in many of the Conservation Trust Churches throughout England, will receive full publicity on web sites, local press, local radio stations and possibly television. Do come and join us for tea and cakes and a nostalgic trip around Stansted's past.



Barry and Ros Francis  
Tel: 817327  
Stella Rodgers  
Tel: 814814  
Audrey Rodgers  
Tel: 812162

## SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am

**All enquiries:** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
Tel: 815243  
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com  
Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon, Monday,  
Wednesday, Friday  
Administrator: Mrs Elizabeth Jennings  
Website: www.stansted.net/stjohns

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

**Assistant Curate:** Rev'd Giles Tulk  
Tel: 817155  
Email: stansted.curate@googlemail.com

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

#### Tuesday

9.00am St John's Tots

#### Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer  
10.00am Holy Communion

#### Saturday

9.00am Morning Prayer

#### Monday-Friday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

There were no entries from the Registers in April

## ST JOHN'S NEWS

The ordination of Rev'd Giles Tulk, together with other ordinands, will take place at St John's Church at 10.30am on Sunday 27th June, probably the first ordination to take place in our church.



On the following Saturday, 3rd July, the annual Bradwell Pilgrimage will take place. The speaker will be the Archbishop of York. A coach has been booked (fare £10). Details from Paul or Janet Wilkin; tel 812203.



# STANSTED 10K

## COUNTRY & ROAD CHARITY FUN RUN & WALK

SUNDAY 27th JUNE 11am Bentfield Green

Warm-up Routine, Chiropractor & Sports Massage from 10.15

• **POSTAL & ON-LINE ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11th JUNE** •

Entries on the day from 10 - 10.45 am

Categories: Male / Female Under 12, Under 16, 16+

Fees: 16+ £8 (£10 on the day), Under 16 £4 (advance & on the day)

On-line advance entries (see website): 16 + £9.50, Under 16 £5.50

**Entry forms available from: The Rose and Crown, Stansted Chiropractic Clinic, Romeera Leisure Centre, Livingwell Health Club, King's Butchers, the Library, [www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk) or telephone 01279 814059**

*Barbecue ~ Raffle ~ Ice Cream ~ Warm Up Routine ~ Sports Massage ~ Face Painting*

***Winners' Prizes plus a Medal and Leisure Club Pass for all finishers***

All proceeds to Uttlesford Community Travel, Assin Endwa Trust (Ghana), St Clare Hospice, Stansted Day Centre, Samaritan's Purse

More St John's News ...

### ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The June draws for the St John's 300 Club will take place on Wednesday 30th June at the 'Pie Night' in the Dog & Duck at 7.30pm. Come along and see if you are a winner!

Francine Cope

### BENEFICE BOOK CLUB

The Benefice Book Club will meet on 16th June at 8.00pm in St John's Church to discuss 'Never Let Me Go' by Kazuo Ishiguro. If you are interested, add your name to the list on the St John's welcome desk.

### HILL CHILLI

25th June 7.00pm-10.00pm  
at Sonia's Place (31 Chapel Hill).  
Supper and wine - £10 (vegetarian option).

In aid of St John's Church Hall.

### ST JOHN'S THEATRE OUTINGS GROUP



Several times each year theatre trips are organised for parishioners to see performances at the Arts Theatre and The Corn Exchange in Cambridge. These are arranged to appeal to all ages and tastes and we always try to obtain the best available seats but keeping the cost down to £30 per person each time. We use Farnham Coaches for our travel and they obligingly collect us at the church or near the bus stop by the police station in the village and dropping us right outside the venue – and bringing us back too! We recently saw 'The Glass Menagerie' by Tennessee Williams, starring Imogen Stubbs, 'Guys and Dolls' and are about to enjoy Agatha Christie's 'Witness for the Prosecution' at the beginning of June. We would now like to welcome other interested parties to come along and join us from time to time. If you would like to be contacted for future outings please contact me by email or telephone so that you can be placed on our mailing list. Many thanks.

Rosemary Thomson  
Tel: 815551

Email: [r.thomson321@btinternet.com](mailto:r.thomson321@btinternet.com)





## Coffee Morning

**10 am - noon Wed 2nd June**  
**Day Centre**

Cake Stall ~ Books ~ Bric-à-Brac  
Raffle

Entry £1 - incl refreshments

Do join us & help to raise funds



**11 am**

**Fri 11th June**

**Recreation Ground**

## For information

call Rachel on 816215 or email  
rachel@sunnysidechildcare.org.uk

**This year's theme is Pirates**

## St Mary's School PTFA

### 'World Cup' Summer Fayre



**1 - 4 pm**

**Sun 13th June**

Beat The Goalie ~ Roll-A-Ball  
Tombola ~ Face-Painting ~ BBQ  
Beer Tent & much much more!!

Entry **FREE!**

## June

## VILLAGE EVENTS

2	Wed	St Clare Coffee Morning
		Mountfitchet Club
		Garden Club
4	Fri	NCT tea and toys
6	Sun	Windmill open
		St Mary's Church open
10	Thu	WI
11	Fri	Big Toddler
12 Sat / 13		Sun Skips
13	Sun	'World Cup' Summer Fayre
14	Mon	Shalom Group
17	Thu	U3A
17 Thu - Sun		20 Church open & Display
17 Thu / 18 Fri		Lunchtime Concerts
19	Sat	Parkinson's Exhibition & Coffee
		Celebratory Afternoon
		Concert
		S W Choral Society Prom
20	Sun	Songs of Praise
25	Fri	Hill Chilli
26 Sat / 27		Sun Skips
27	Sun	Ordination of Priests
		Fun Run
28	Mon	Shalom 'At Home'
<b>July</b>		
3	Sat	Bradwell Pilgrimage
4	Sun	Car Boot Sale
		Windmill open
		St Mary's Church open
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Club
		Garden Club

10 am - noon
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
St John's Hall 10 - 11.30 am
1.30 - 5 pm
2 - 5 pm
St John's Hall 7.45 pm
Recreation Ground 11 am
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
St Mary's School 1 - 4 pm
7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
St John's Hall 2 pm
St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm
St Mary's Church 1.30 pm
Day Centre 10 am - 2 pm
Windmill 2.30 pm
St Mary's Church 4 pm
St John's Church 7.30 pm
Memorial Gardens 4 pm
31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm
Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
St John's Church 10.30 am
Bentfield Green 11 am
White House, Ugley Green 8 pm
11 am
Mountfitchet College 11 am - 2 pm
1.30 - 5 pm
2 - 5 pm
Day Centre 2- 4 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm



## St Mary's Church Midsummer Event

**Thur 17th - Sun 20th June**

Church Open 11 am - 5 pm  
with exhibition 'The Way We Were'

**1.30 pm Thur 17th & Fri 18th June**  
Lunchtime recitals in the church

**4pm Sat 19th June**

Concert in the church

Light Refreshments ~ Everyone Welcome

**PARKINSON'S** CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

Photography, Print & Paint  
Exhibition & Coffee Morning  
to raise money for research  
into Parkinson's Disease

**10 am - 2 pm Sat 19th June**  
**Day Centre**

Tel: Margaret Chastney 812194  
or Kathy West 816293 for details



## Stansted Cricket Club 150 years Celebration Funday

**1 pm Sun 11th July**  
**Hargrave Park**

Stalls ~ Cream Teas ~ BBQ  
Tombola ~ Sweet Stall  
Fun activities for all the family  
Bar open all afternoon



## STANSTED 10K FUN RUN & WALK Bentfield Green

**11am Sun 27th June**

For entry form & more details  
please ☎ 814059 or email

**info@stansted10k.org.uk**

Advance entry closes 11th June  
Register on the day 10 - 10.45 am  
**www.stansted10k.org.uk**



## Stansted Windmill

100 years since last working

## A Celebratory Afternoon

**2.30 pm Sat 19th June**

To mark completion of the  
refurbishment

All Welcome

Music ~ Refreshments from 3 pm

## Bentfield School PTA



**2 pm Saturday 10th July**

A fantastic line up of live music  
to suit all tastes!!!

Tickets £8 in advance tel 815496 or  
£9 on the gate  
Under 16s free if with paying adult



## Songs of Praise

Come and sing your favourite hymns

**4 pm Sunday 20th June**  
Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill  
or St John's Church if wet

**Entry Free ~ All Welcome**

Please bring your own chair!



## Summer Prom

**7.30 pm Sat 19th June**  
**St John's Church**

Join in the choruses and wave a Union Jack!

Entry £10, accompanied under 18s £1  
Tickets from Stansted Carpets 812019  
St John's Church Office 815243  
or on the door

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Wych Elm  
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**David Turner Cert PFS CeMap**  
Principal

'Greenways' Park Rd Elsenham CM22 6DF  
Tel/Fax 01279 816622

e-mail dturner@greenways-financial-planning.co.uk

**Spangles**  
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**Lower Street, Stansted CM24 8LR**  
**www.spangleschildrenscentre.org**

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- ☆ Fully qualified staff
- ☆ Open 9 am - 5 pm every weekday  
(except Bank Holidays)
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& pick up a time table.



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and Back Pain Clinic**  
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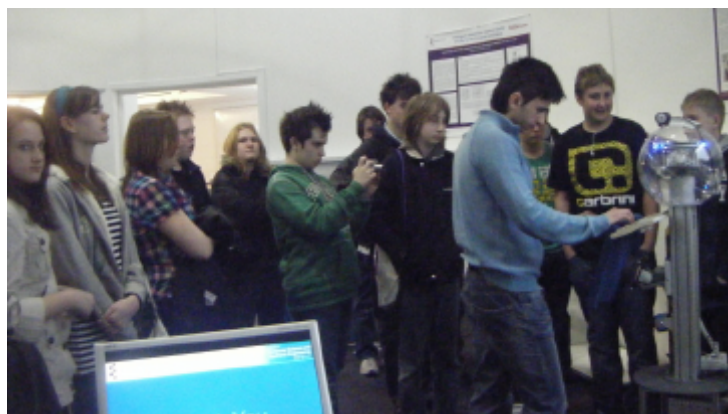
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Marcell Morelli MSc (Chiro), DC  
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## Year 10 students visit to Colchester Institute and Essex University

For the second year running five Year 10 students were involved in Essex's aim higher programme 'Get Ahead' at the Colchester Institute and Essex University. The programme aims to give students an insight into higher education and to raise their aspirations for the future. Our students worked with students from other schools and were excited by lectures demonstrating robotics and working in the Performing Arts Faculty. They were shown around the campus visiting student rooms and sampling college and university food! "Brilliant", "Great insight into university life", "I definitely want to go to university now" were just some of the opinions expressed.



Mrs S Flood  
Head of Dyslexia Unit

## Year 8 Gifted and Talented Enrichment Day

Recently the ICT Department held an enrichment day for a group of Year 8 students. They had the opportunity to learn about digital photography. They learnt about how to take good pictures using rules of composition and had the chance to photograph different objects around the College. They then were able to edit these pictures using specialised software. The day went really well, with the students saying how much they enjoyed the experience, expressing an interest in learning more about digital photography.

Mr S Ivey  
ICT Department

## MMCC Hits 50 - Summer 2010

Don't forget our 50th birthday is this summer 2010. As part of the celebrations a display of memorabilia and photographs is planned. If anyone has any old school photos or items of interest that could form part of a display, I would be really grateful if you would contact me at College. The greatest care will be taken of your treasured possessions and they will be returned after the birthday celebrations. There will be a display open to the local community on Wednesday 14th July, 4.00pm-7.00pm.

Mrs M Smith  
Head of History

## Car Boot Sales

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 College canteen. Please phone Tina on 814371 or Yvonne on 813071. Next one is on 26th September. [www.mmccpta.org.uk](http://www.mmccpta.org.uk)

## PRESS RELEASE - Soft Federation

The governing bodies of the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College and Saffron Walden County High School have agreed to form a federation from September 2010. This will be a soft governance federation, which means that each school will maintain its own headteacher, governing body and distinct ethos. The County High's Headteacher, John Hartley will, however, become Executive Head of the federation with overall responsibility for both schools. Our two schools have had close links for many years and we now wish to formalise and strengthen our partnership. We very much look forward to working with John Hartley and his colleagues as together we seek to improve standards at the College. Essex Local Authority strongly supports the initiative and has guaranteed significant additional funds for the federation. John Hartley has described the federation as a great opportunity for students and staff in both schools, saying that "Schools that become involved in federations have tended to find there are advantages for both institutions, especially in terms of professional development opportunities for teachers and support staff. This in turn can be very helpful in recruiting and retaining able staff. I very much look forward to working with everyone at the College as together we seek to improve both our schools".

Mrs K Griffiths  
Chair of Governors MMCC  
Mr J Hartley  
Headteacher SWCHS



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

We have made history here at Stansted, winning The League for the first time in our history, and what a great achievement it has been as this has been done on a shoestring budget. The average age of the players is just 22 and our manager, Terry Spillane, and his coach, Dave Bricknell, have worked so hard to achieve this. Everyone at Stansted would like to thank them so much for their efforts. I would like to thank all the locals that did come and watch us - unfortunately not that many as the average gate was just 40, but hopefully next season will see the average gate increase as we hope to build on the success of this year. During the World Cup we will be showing all the matches on the giant screen in our clubhouse and everyone is welcome to come along and hopefully share in England's success; drinks are at club prices.

Larry Woods  
Vice-Chairman

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## Stansted Evening Women's Institute

We had four visitors from a WI in Cheshire (friends of our Secretary, Jenny Wraith) at our April meeting. It is always good to welcome members from other areas and exchange ideas and news. They thoroughly enjoyed their first visit to Essex and admired our beautiful villages and immediate countryside. Our speaker began by telling us that he had altered the title of his talk- whether that meant he'd also changed the content, I'm not quite sure. Billed as 'Essex - Defender of London' we had understood it was to be the part Essex played in the last war. Now called 'Essex at War' he began with the Viking raids at Maldon - he said the Vikings won - well they would wouldn't they with all those helmets? We then fast forwarded to the building of the forts at Tilbury and Gravesend by Henry VIII and thence to the 103 Martello Towers built as defence against Napoleon. Interestingly the bricks used for these were made at Grays. As we all know Essex is vulnerable to invasion with its long coastline, but in the last war it was felt our defence should be airborne. This resulted in 30 airfields being built and more added by the Americans before D-day as we are only too aware. The very first civilian casualties of WW2 were in Essex. Apparently the characters in the TV series 'Sharpe' were modelled on the Essex regiment - bet they didn't have a Sean Bean!

We held a lovely Craft Day when 16 of us gathered to make cards in various mediums. Surrounded by paper, card, glue and glittery things it was just like being back in the safe world of primary school, only better because we were allowed pointed scissors! We did decoupage, encaustic work which involved hot wax on little irons - magical - and iris folding, the art of folding strips of the inside of envelopes and following a printed pattern. We were all very impressed with our efforts and hope to do another one in the autumn.

Elsenham hosted the Spring Group Meeting this year and about 90 members including Ugley, Berden, Manuden and ourselves gathered to hear Andy Malcolm tell us of his work with the Fishermen's Mission. This is a Christian-based charity founded 130 years ago and has no Government aid. They help with emergency assistance to injured and shipwrecked fishermen and provide counselling to bereaved families (about 15 men are lost each year) as well as welfare services at their 13 Centres. Andy joined them ten years ago after early retirement from British Telecom, having previously been unaware of their existence. In between describing the hard and often dangerous job they do, Andy told funny stories and sang two beautiful sea-shanties. There are now only 500 active fishermen in East Anglia, but fish and chips are still one of our most popular meals. The first shop was opened in Lancashire in 1863 and it wasn't Harry Ramsden - he didn't appear until the twenties! We came away more aware of 'The True Price of Fish and Chips'.

Our June meeting on 10th in St John's Hall at 7.45pm is Members Day when a group of people not on the regular Committee arrange and run the meeting with a surprise speaker. If you like surprises come along! Planning has begun for our 50th Anniversary Dinner in October. We still

have a few founder members and many who have been members for over 40 years. It was good to read in the 'Link' that the daffodil bulbs at Blythwood were bought with money left by Rita Humphreys for the village. Rita was our first Secretary and subsequently our President. She was such an enthusiastic member of our WI and did so much to ensure its early success. She became a WI speaker and travelled around the area giving her very amusing talks. She would be delighted to know that we are still alive and kicking.



Judy Colliver  
Brenda Ryan  
President  
Tel: 812725



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

'Bee Keeping in Essex' was the theme of a most interesting and educational talk given by Mr and Mrs Ridler, very enthusiastic promoters of the bee and its benefits to us humans. Mrs Ridler spoke entertainingly about the benefits and Mr Ridler spoke just as entertainingly in the second half of the programme on the threats to bees. It was pointed out that there are 250 species of bees in Britain alone, and that we were the chief beneficiaries of their industry, enjoying the benefits of honey both as a food and as an anti-oxidant. Another important product of the 'hive of industry' of course being wax, and yet another less well known was a substance called propolis which was good for dental problems amongst other things.

Amongst the threats to the bee were the Varroa mites, insects which live on the backs of bees, weakening them so that viruses can take hold and wipe out the colonies; and, of course, human threats in the shape of mobile phone masts - these cause problems with the bees' natural navigational instincts as does crop spraying. However, the good news which Mr Ridler pointed out, was that there was a great increase in bee keeping in Essex. We were advised to encourage the industrious bees into our gardens by planting single flowers - rather than over-selected modern varieties - and to plant them in full sun to encourage the bees to work the flowers. A lively question and answer session brought this very illuminating talk to an end and so ended another interesting afternoon for our members. Why not make a bee-line for one of our meetings? You would be very welcome!

Andrea Fitt

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The St John's Road Area Association would like to give notice that between 23rd July and 31st August, St John's Road, St John's Crescent and St John's Lane are to have a new surface dressing. Therefore would owners of parked vehicles please remove them and refrain from parking in these roads between these dates. No responsibility will be accepted by the Committee, the residents or contractors if damage occurs to any vehicle or to personal property during these works.

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## HOW TO GIVE A CAT A TABLET

I've had several requests for the 'How to give a Cat a Tablet' instructions again, so here you are!

1. Pick cat up, cradle it in left arm. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding tablet in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop tablet in, close cat's mouth and allow to swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom. Throw soggy tablet away. Get new tablet, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push tablet to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of 10.
4. Retrieve tablet from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
5. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, holding front and rear paws. Ignore hissing. Get spouse to hold cat's head firmly with one hand while forcing jaws open with wooden ruler. Drop tablet down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
6. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another tablet. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains.
7. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat so its head is just visible. Put tablet in end of drinking straw, force cat's mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
8. Check label to make sure tablet not harmful to humans, drink glass of water to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
9. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another tablet. Put on heavy-duty pruning gloves. Tie cat's legs to dining table. Force cat's mouth open with small spanner. Push tablet into mouth followed by large piece of steak. Hold head vertically and pour in glass of water to wash tablet down.
10. Get spouse to drive you to A&E, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes tablet remnants from right eye. Stop by furniture shop on way home to order new table.
11. Arrange for vet to make house call!

You'll be pleased to know that we will be happy to worm your cat or dog for you at the surgery, and also that wormers these days come in a variety of different forms, including pastes and granules and even a spot-on preparation that can go on the back of the cat's neck, just like the Frontline Combo flea drops. So no need for any more visits to A&E! Also our annual Frontline offer is still running, if you buy a six-pack you get one pipette free. So time to stock up before the summer flea population explosion. On a sad note, our lovely nurse Jo will be leaving us this month to follow her boyfriend up to the Midlands. We will all miss her very much, not only as she is a first class nurse but she also bakes great cakes! The good news is that Emma will be our new Stansted nurse. Emma has worked for us for several years and completed her training at our Saffron Walden surgery and will carry on with all the nurse clinics and puppy parties as usual; she's also showing great promise on the cake front ...

Ilse Pedler  
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



## HATFIELD FOREST HIGHLIGHTS

Hello everyone. Summer is almost here and the Forest is looking great with a recent yellow haze of buttercups covering the plains. Our Healthy Walk Group is going strong; we meet every Thursday rain or shine at the main gate for a 9.45am start. We have been exploring the Forest every week and have even ventured out to Wall Wood and Woodside Green.



On 25th June the fantastic Illyria Theatre Company will be performing 'James and the Giant Peach' here at the Forest. For our Shakespeare lovers, Illyria will be returning on July 7th for 'Romeo and Juliet'. For more information ring us on 870678.

During June we carry out our maiden pollarding in areas where we are restoring lost wood pasture. Pollarding is a traditional way of harvesting timber with cutting taking place two to three metres up the tree to avoid the shoots



being nibbled by grazing deer and cows. A tree will usually be pollarded for the first time at about 10 years of age and then pollarded again about 20 years later. Pollards are an important habitat for many wildlife species so ensuring we continue to pollard at Hatfield Forest is an important part of our work. As always, I hope you will come and find me if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing you in the Forest soon.

Laura Slater  
Community Warden  
Tel: 870678

Email: [laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:laura.slater@nationaltrust.org.uk)

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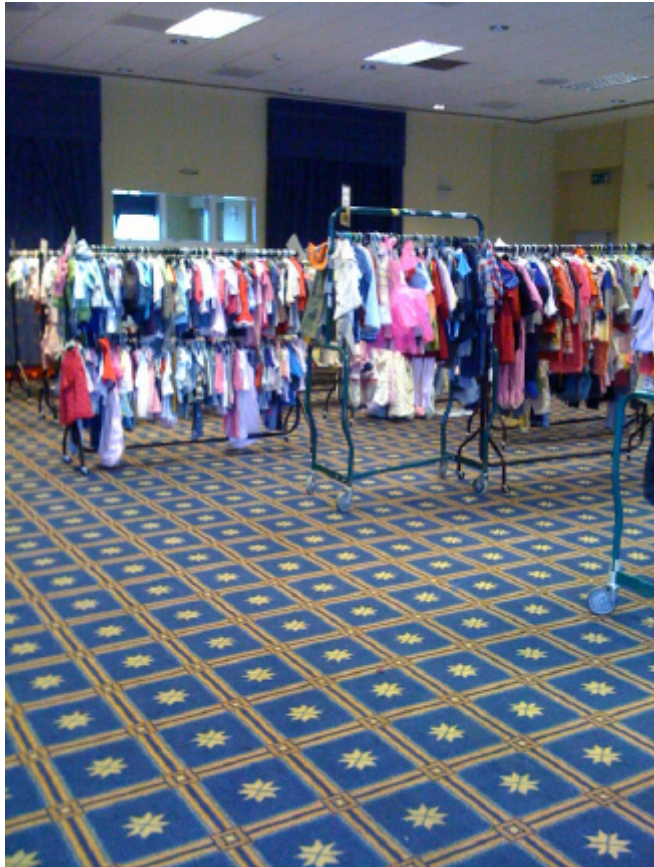


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## STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

At the end of April we held our first Nearly New Sale of the year. Due to the growth of our fantastic sale we decided to move the venue to the more spacious surroundings of the Hilton Hotel near Stansted Airport. The sale was a huge success, with over 250 shoppers through the door within the first 45 minutes! We had so much more space which meant we could offer more of the larger items such as cotbeds, push-chairs etc. Most of the shoppers commented that the ease of



buying was so much smoother due to the amount of space, which made browsing so much simpler. Another bonus was that the Hilton has its own coffee shop which meant many shoppers could grab a coffee and something to eat. We will be holding our next sale on 17th October. If you would like to sell at our next Nearly New Sale please contact us.

Next Event: **Tea & Toys with Osbourne Books**  
St John's Church Hall, 4th June, 10.00am–11.30am  
Contact Bridget on 850986, £2 per family.

We are currently looking for volunteers to join our committee. If you are interested in joining our committee, would like to find out more about volunteering, or for general information about the NCT please contact us.

Kim Taylor  
Publicity Officer  
Tel: 084424 36281

The new bowling season is now well under way and what a joy it has been to play outside again. One really does appreciate late spring at the Club with the green in pristine condition and all the shrubs and borders in bloom. Many thanks to all members of the Club who have helped prepare the Club, the green and the borders for this new season.

Our first game of the season was an inter-house competition 'The President's Team' v 'The Captain's Team'. The match was very well supported and, by the closest of margins, one point to be precise, the Captain's team were the victors. The annual Perrin Rose Bowl Competition followed this the following week; again, this is an inter-house fixture but this time on a round robin basis. The overall winner by a margin of two points was Doreen Scraggs, with Peter Clements and myself in joint second place and Stella Rogers and Mike Shewry in joint third. The weather was very kind to us and, although it threatened to rain throughout the day, it managed to hold off until the late evening.

We were not so lucky on our new members' day when the skies opened up on us and it rained incessantly and, regrettably, we had to abandon this meeting at lunchtime. Thanks to all those brave souls who turned up but it really was too wet to give you the chance to try your hand. Rather than dedicate a particular day, if you would like to come along on *any* Friday evening from 6.00pm onwards, we would be delighted to tell you a bit about the Club and give you the opportunity to 'have a bowl'. For further information on this and other questions about the club, please either contact Del Sharp, the Club Captain, on 816144 or myself.

The senior team had their first competitive game last week; they had a reasonable result, winning and drawing one game and losing the third. We also played our first 'B' team league game of the season and, although we could not secure victory, there was overall satisfaction in the way we played, which bodes well for the rest of the season. Perhaps as important was the genuine friendliness of both teams and the fact that the exclamation of 'well bowled!' was said to any player, irrespective of which side they were on, for a good shot. Our ladies' team played Quendon and again this was played with competitive friendliness. Both the ladies' and men's team look forward with confidence and anticipation to the rest of the season. Do not forget if you would like to join us, or just pop in to see what it's all about, you will be made very welcome - hope to meet you shortly.

Edward Taub  
Secretary  
Tel: 816932

Email: [ebtaub@googlemail.com](mailto:ebtaub@googlemail.com)





## VOLUNTARY & RECREATIONAL PROFILES

### No 9 Grove Cottage



Grove Cottage provides social and educational activities for people with learning disability: developing their potential, helping them avoid social isolation by developing lifelong friendships and providing respite for their families. It has been providing practical help to local families for more than 40 years. Currently around 100 people use the centre each week and about 50 local families benefit from respite. The centre is in Bishop's Stortford but there are no geographical restrictions on membership. Several Stansted families use Grove Cottage each week. We were delighted that D C Poulton presented us with the eggs from their annual Easter egg collection. The nursery children dressed as Easter bunnies and had their faces painted to meet the staff of D C Poulton in Hatfield Forest for an egg hunt. Afterwards the Easter eggs were shared among the very happy members of Grove Cottage.

### Special Needs Nursery

Children can join the nursery as soon as they are diagnosed. A one-to-one staffing ratio provides a stimulating and safe



environment. The children follow the same Early Years Foundation Stages as other children. The staff is experienced in tube feeding, oxygen therapy, nasopharyngeal suction and tracheotomy care.

### Youth Club

Young people between 15 and 25 meet on Tuesday evenings.



### Speech and Language Therapy

Improving communications is one of the greatest gifts we can offer a child with learning disability.

### Saturday Clubs

Two clubs (2-8 years and 9-15 years) provide continuity from the nursery through the school years to maintain friendship groups.

### Evening Clubs

Adults meet on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The two clubs are run by different teams and have different activities.

### Carers' Groups

Carers' groups support families with children of different ages.

If someone you know has learning disability and would like to visit Grove Cottage please leave a message on our answerphone 01279 656085. You can find more information at [mencapgrovecottage.org](http://mencapgrovecottage.org) or on Facebook: Grove Cottage Bishops Stortford Mencap.

David Scott  
Chairman



## WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has endorsed the call by local Parliamentary candidates Sir Alan Haselhurst and Mark Prisk for local rail users to be given at least as much consideration as people travelling to and from Stansted Airport by rail. SSE believes that this simple principle should command all-party support and is therefore writing to all local Parliamentary candidates asking them to declare their support for a fairer deal for local rail users. The issue has come to a head at this time because 120 new 'Electrostar' rail carriages are currently on order for the region and the present intention is to give priority to the Stansted Express by replacing all its existing rolling stock with the new Electrostar carriages and lengthening these trains from eight to 12 carriages. Since it takes 10 trains to operate the present Stansted Express timetable on a 15 minute service frequency, this proposal would see all 120 new carriages allocated to the Stansted Express, leaving none regularly available for local commuter rail services between Cambridge and Liverpool Street, other than during off-peak hours and at weekends.

There is, however, scope for a re-think. The Department for Transport is currently looking for a new train operator to replace National Express from next April and is asking for views on what priorities should be set for the new operator. Sir Alan Haselhurst and Mark Prisk have written to Lord Adonis, the Secretary of State for Transport, arguing for greater priority to be given to local rail users and for a fairer allocation of the 120 new Electrostar carriages. The proposal to lengthen the Stansted Express and give it priority access to all the new carriages comes despite a 25 per cent decline in the number of airport passengers using the Stansted Express service over the past four years. In addition – and against all logic – up until 2005 the Stansted Express service was two trains per hour (in each direction) and mostly these trains were only four carriages long, whereas today the service frequency is four trains per hour (in each direction) and the trains now mostly eight carriages long.

Options for providing local rail users with a fairer share of the benefits of the new Electrostar carriages – which are taxpayer funded and cost £1.3m each – include:

- 1 Increasing the number of Stansted Express services which stop at Stansted Mountfitchet, Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth
- 2 Ending the dedicated Stansted Express service altogether. This would enable faster and more frequent services to and from all the stations on the main line between Cambridge and Liverpool Street.
- 3 Returning the frequency of the Stansted Express to two trains per hour in each direction. If it were to be lengthened to 12 carriages, two trains per hour would provide more than enough capacity.
- 4 Postponing the lengthening of the Stansted Express to 12 carriages until enough new carriages are available

to replace the old rolling stock on the Cambridge to Liverpool Street line as well as the Stansted Express rolling stock.

## Airport Planning Application Refused

SSE is delighted to report that Uttlesford District Council's Development Control Committee voted unanimously to refuse BAA's planning application for permission to rent its surplus warehouse space to all-comers. Having taken account of the evidence submitted by BAA, plus objections by SSE, parish councils and members of the public, the Council could find no material reason for making an exception to its own longstanding policy of only permitting airport-related businesses to operate from within the Airport site. The Committee also disagreed with BAA's argument that there was a serious shortage of suitable warehouse space locally and considered that, with a planning application for a second runway still on the table, no-one could be sure that Stansted Airport's current surplus of airport space would be long term.

## Reporting Noisy Aircraft and Aviation Fuel Smells

While many are aware of the system for reporting noisy aircraft using the Stop Stansted Expansion website, still more have been unaware that it is also possible to report strong smells of aviation fuel which occasionally drift across the community. The increasing frequency of reports about these odours means the campaign is keen to gather as much information as possible about who is affected and when so that appropriate action can be taken. To log your concerns use the online form at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com) (see link to 'complain about noise/fuel smells') which ensures that SSE receives a copy of your report to BAA and enables the campaign's technical advisers to make its own enquiries too.

Carol Barbone  
Campaign Director  
Tel: 07775 523091  
Email: [cbarbone@mxco.co.uk](mailto:cbarbone@mxco.co.uk)



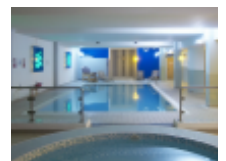
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Waltham Close, London Stansted Airport CM24 1PP

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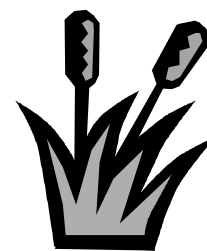
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# Stansted network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

\*\*\*\*\*

### REPAINTING THE LIGHTING COLUMNS

After a good few years of service, the columns in Lower Street, Station Road and Chapel Hill are looking the worse for wear. Hopefully during May the columns should be repainted which will improve the street scene.

### FURTHER IMPROVING THE STREET SCENE

There is so much clutter along our streets that it is time to conduct a review. This has been done and a number of surplus posts and signage boards identified which all require attention. Where appropriate, Essex Highways have been notified. Hopefully there will be a response and action sooner or later!

In addition, community work by young offenders under supervision will be undertaking work to clean up areas in and around the village. If all of this work is completed, the appearance of the village should be much improved.

### LOOKING FOR WAYS TO ENHANCE STREET LIGHTING

Following advice from Essex County Council, the Parish Council is looking to set up a trial with white lighting. If it delivers as described then there will be several benefits - more light exposure on the road and footpath, less light pollution and greater economy in energy usage. On the other hand there will be capital costs to convert the existing mishmash of lights. If the decision was taken to proceed, which is unlikely to be for a few months, then a rolling programme will be devised to phase the changeover. The Council recognises the importance which parishioners attach to having effective street lighting and hopefully a major improvement programme can begin within the next year. If there are specific locations where new lights would be beneficial please contact the Clerk or any Councillor.

### PLEASE BE PATIENT IF SOME GRASS IS UNCUT

For any parishioner who missed the piece in the May Link, patience is requested where areas of grass are uncut if there are the remains of

daffodils. Advice received from professional gardeners is to leave the daffodils uncut until mid-June to reduce risks of growing blind next year. The major areas where this applies are Silver Street, Cambridge Road beyond Croasdaile Road, High Lane and Bentfield Upper Green. Unfortunately this means some untidy grass for a few weeks - apologies.

### WOULD YOU LIKE AN ALLOTMENT?

Currently there are only 34 allotments in the parish at Rainsford Road/Pennington Lane, but 15 people are on a waiting list. The recent questionnaire suggested that more people would like to rent an allotment. In order to gauge the level of demand please contact the Parish Council by phone - 813214, email - [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net) or in person at Crafton Green. It would also be helpful if you would indicate what you would consider paying as an annual rent. Once this information is available, the Council will contact local landowners to try to find suitable land of adequate size.

### DO WE NEED A NEW HALL?

Views as expressed in the recent questionnaire were mixed. As the Parish Council considers the future of Crafton Green in the context of the need for the Council offices to move once the Clinic is relocated, one of the possibilities would be to redevelop a substantial part or all of the site.

One of the ideas which has been proposed is to build a hall which would have the flexibility to meet many different demands. But this begs the question as to what activities would a new (and expensive) hall aim to accommodate. If you believe that existing facilities are inadequate, please let the Council know as precisely as possible what opportunities a new hall would make possible and whether you know people prepared to organise these activities.

At the same time, the Council will be discussing the futures of the Library and the Day Centre in order to ensure that the needs of a growing parish are met. Crafton Green is the only site in the ownership of the Parish Council and it is thus critical that the big decisions are right. However,

any major scheme will only be possible if external funding is forthcoming but such funding will be much easier to obtain if there is a well researched community project which will be of benefit to many.

## STANSTED YOUTH CENTRE

The Centre is in good shape. The numbers are good and the young people are excited at the projects that they have got planned for this year.

Recently six girls took part in a 6-week Emotional Wellbeing Course. They enjoyed drama, dance, art and discussion - all based around different feelings and how we cope with them. For their participation they will receive an Essex Youth Certificate.

Our members have begun work on the Mosaic and Mural project that is going to brighten up the outside of the Centre and our storage unit. These murals will depict well know landmarks around Stansted and from Northern Ireland following a visit last year. The mosaics will be of the young people themselves and the hobbies and activities they enjoy taking part in, like BMXing and fishing. The young people are also learning about Gaudi and his famous mosaics and how mosaics first started with the Romans. It is then hoped, if funding can be sourced, to take some of them to Barcelona in June to see Gaudi's work for themselves.



With spring here the garden project will again be bursting into activity with the initial clearing and cleaning and then planting and caring. Plans for the garden this year is construction of a giant chess board made with paving slabs for outdoor chess games and a barbeque area. Our garden crew led by Tom Williams have been eager to get started and the fact that the trees surrounding the garden have been drastically cut back during the

winter means less leaves to clear prior to planting and more light for the plants to enjoy.

Spring also sees our Belfast friends first visit to Stansted. (see photo). Thirty young people from 2 youth centres are coming to spend a week with us to see how our youth centres operate and what life is like in Essex. The youngsters come from the two areas of Belfast that have seen lots of sectarian unrest and are part of the reconciliation process so we hope to make their stay with us as enjoyable as possible.

If anyone would like more details about the Youth Centre, please contact Linda Barnes on 07920 466 923.

## NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD D.C.

The proposed relocation of an enlarged St Mary's Primary School to Foresthall Park raises the existing question of the unsafe state of Water Lane for pedestrians as this will be an important walking route for parents and children. The County Council has not yet decided what it will do about Water Lane.

The District Council is pushing the developers at Foresthall Park to open the children's play area near Walson Way.

A controversial planning application at the airport was discussed at the start of May and refused. BAA built some commercial premises in 2007 but cannot find any tenants for them because of the downturn in the economy that has hit the aviation business. Uttlesford's policy restricts businesses located at the airport to those that are connected with the operation of the airport. Businesses that have no relevance to the airport are prohibited. Council officers recommended that a concession should be given to help BAA and its subsidiary business's finances by letting in non-airport tenants. There were numerous objections to this concession, not least that it would be unfair to companies with commercial premises outside the airport who also can't let their premises but didn't expect competition from BAA when they built theirs. I spoke in support of the objectors and the committee refused the application unanimously. (Cllr Alan Dean)

## St Mary's Primary School

The future of the school and its site in St John's Road is of great interest to me. I spent some of my formative years as a pupil of the school and have happy memories of it. I have also a child who is currently in year 6 at St. Mary's who will

who is currently in year 6 at St. Mary's who will be leaving this year.

Clearly the initial consultation by Essex County Council was flawed. Officers were unprepared for many of the questions asked of them. Subsequently, the portfolio holder Cllr Stephen Castle has met parent, governors and representatives from the Parish Council.

If the school does move to Forest Hall Park I should like to see a blue print for the site. First and foremost the playing field should be preserved as an open space. Clearly the existing school buildings would become redundant. If there is development it should be sympathetic to the existing street scene. What use the site is going to be put to will be a decision for Essex County Council. A planning application would however have to be submitted to the District Council for their approval or otherwise. The site is an important one at the centre of the village, and I feel strongly that there should be some community gain.

### **Climate Change**

At our last council meeting councillors approved a Natural Resources Management Strategy. This is our strategy for addressing the causes and effects of climate change, conserving valuable resources such as energy and water, and dealing with related issues such as fuel poverty.

The main objective of this strategy is to reduce the greenhouse gas emission from council operations and from the district as a whole, and to make preparations for predicted climate change impacts. The principal target is a 25% reduction in the greenhouse emissions under the Council's direct control by 2011/12 compared to 2006/07.

Climate change for this region means hotter, drier summers with more chance of heat-waves and drought, and wetter, milder winters with more chance of storms and flooding. Overall annual rainfall will fall.

Uttlesford falls within the Three Valley's Water area of supply. Interestingly, water use in this supply area is the highest in the country at 161 litres per person per day in 2008-09, compared to the national average of 145 litres per person per day.

The Council has had some environmental successes principally with the new recycling system. In the summer of 2006 the Council introduced a new 'three-bin' scheme allowing residents to recy-

cle kitchen waste. This was followed by an expansion of the range of recyclables that the Council could take. The new system, along with the efforts of residents has proven itself. In 2005-06 before the system was implemented we recycled 26% of our domestic waste. By 2008-09 this had improved to 53.7%, the 10<sup>th</sup> best recycling rate in the country and 20,371 fewer tonnes of domestic waste was sent to landfill.

If you would like to know more about the Councils strategy on climate change further information is available on our website [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/climate+change). Alternatively if you wish information to be sent to you please telephone the Council on 01799 510 511. (Cllr Geoffrey Sell)

### **PEDESTRIAN ROUTE TO AND FROM A NEW ST. MARY'S SCHOOL**

The proposed relocation of an enlarged St Mary's Primary School to Foresthall Park raises the need for a safe walking route from the school to the centre of the village for parents and children. Once the Black Bridge has been crossed, the route will proceed over the brook and along the footpath up Millfields and thence to Woodfields or the Recreation Ground.

The County Council recognises the need to improve the bridge over the brook and this footpath. At present the County Council will not take responsibility for the state of Water Lane as it has no highway rights. Discussions will be on-going.

### **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The following were elected to serve for the ensuing year:

Chairman of the Council	Geoffrey Sell
V/Chairman of the Council	Ruth Rawlinson
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee	Peter Jones
Chairman of Open Spaces Committee	Jo Freeman

### **WAR MEMORIAL**

Following advice received from the War Memorials Trust, we have revised the specification of works to improve the War Memorial. We have just received the new quotes and intend that the work will be undertaken during the warmer weather. The memorial will be cleaned and the damaged areas repaired. A few



of the letters will be re-cut, the chains re-painted, one kerbstone renewed and another realigned. Hopefully, an inscription will be cut into the first riser on the southern elevation reading "We Will Remember Them".

## CALL FOR PICTURES

Stop Stansted Expansion is keen to hear from people locally with any good quality photos of houses, landscapes and landmarks across Herts & Essex, South Suffolk & South Cambridgeshire for its next Community Calendar and Christmas card.

Landscape format is preferred and high resolution is essential. Photos must be your own work and you must still own the copyright. Groups of pictures from the same village or town are especially welcome.

If you think you can help, please email digital pictures to: [info@stopstanstedexpansion.com](mailto:info@stopstanstedexpansion.com) with a short caption to describe the location and any relevant information and remember to include your contact details. If sending prints (not negatives) from film, or for any further information, please contact Peter Riding at SSE, PO Box 311, Takeley, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 6PY and include your contact details so we can return them later.

## REMINDER - 'STANSTED IN BLOOM'

Judging date: Saturday 3 July. Entry forms in Council pages of May edition of the Link. Please return to Council Offices by Friday 25 June.

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

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A full updated report will be available after the next NhW Public Meeting which will take place on Wednesday 26 May at 7.30 pm in the Stansted Free Church Hall.

Contacts: Cllr Valerie Trundle	813433
Mrs Diane Roberts	813089

## DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

2 & 16 June	Full Council
23 June	Open Spaces

## CONTACT DETAILS

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

## Uttlesford District Council Members

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

## Essex County Council Member

<i>Ray Gooding</i>	Tel: 01279 813103
Email: <a href="mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk">cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk</a>	

## 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](mailto: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
Bill Stiles	813172
Valerie Trundle	813433

# ST CLARE HOSPICE

Paint the town pink!

Back again for its third year, the St Clare Hospice Midnight Walk will be taking place on Saturday 19th June in Harlow town centre. The 10k route will leave the Water Gardens, outside Asda at 10.30pm and follow a circular route along cycle tracks into Old Harlow. The Midnight Walk is now



infamous for its pink flashing bunny ears, and everyone is invited to dress up in their finest fancy dress! Organisers were hoping that the walk taking place in its 20th birthday year would reach record heights of 2,000 entrants but initial sign up has been slow ... so come on girls, what are you waiting for? Visit [www.stclarehospice.org.uk](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk) to register online or telephone 773750, or email [midnight@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:midnight@stclarehospice.org.uk) for an application form.

Elaine Lincoln  
Support Development Officer  
Tel: 773749

Email: [elaine.lincoln@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:elaine.lincoln@stclarehospice.org.uk)

## MEMORIES

Early in the 1980s Stansted Parish Council moved its office into the premises at Crafton Green. Is it really 30 years? I can still quite clearly remember the old meeting place in Lower Street. The Clerk was part-time and worked at home. It was so cold in the winter that coats were often kept on and Rita Humphreys came with a hot water bottle. I made a long thick skirt especially for the meetings, which was like wearing a blanket. A cellar, approached via a trap door, housed a miscellaneous collection of items and I suspect that some, which might have been of interest now, were disposed of in the move. The Library also operated from there and was the place to pick up items of local news and snippets of gossip!

Happy days!

Peggy Honour

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Please bear in mind that the 'Link' can include celebratory events such as anniversaries, weddings or other events. Contributions should be concise but suitably descriptive. You may wish to use the form on page 36.

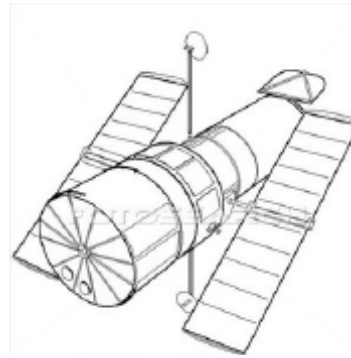
Editor

## SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect  
of the night sky.



Following the 40th anniversary of Apollo 13, this month we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Telescope into Earth orbit by the Space Shuttle. It was named after the American astronomer Edwin Hubble,



who, in the 1920s/'30s, with the aid of the then largest telescope in the world, discovered that the universe was not just our galaxy, but that we live in one of billions of galaxies. The mission went off perfectly as, once in orbit, did the setting up. Upon completion, the telescope was ready to give us deeper views in to space

than ever before. The first results were eagerly awaited. This machine had the smoothest concave mirror that had ever been ground, in a purpose built building where everything was painted black so as to give no reflections from the network of laser beams that would monitor the correct shaping of the glass. So it was with head-scratching dismay to everyone involved when the first pictures sent back were blurred. Certainly the telescope had been able to capture images we had never been able to see before, but they were definitely out of focus. From the beginning, Hubble was to have planned visits from the Space Shuttle for repairs and for upgraded equipment to be installed. But these things do not get hurried. It took three years before the telescope was to be revisited but when the day came, the astronauts had many tasks, including replacing the huge solar arrays that generate Hubble's power. They were also able to install correcting lenses and Hubble could at last see clearly.

Since that mission 17 years ago Hubble has expanded the Universe by billions of light years. Wherever Hubble looks in to an area of sky that has always been black to other telescopes, Hubble finds something. One picture from Hubble is particularly interesting because it shows hundreds of galaxies in a previously black spot of sky. That black spot is the diameter of a 5p piece held 75 feet from the eye. But it is not just that Hubble detected those galaxies so far away but it also means that the Universe is that much bigger in all directions. Hubble is due to be retired in 2014. It deserves a pension. And why were the optics wrong? One bolt in the structure holding the mirror, as it was ground, had its black paint scraped off somehow and it was white underneath and the lasers picked up reflections from it.

Martin West  
Mooncraft Productions

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## SAFFRON WALDEN ARTS FESTIVAL

Celebrating the Arts in the Saffron Walden Area

10th - 14th June

☆ And a Chance to be a Star ☆

The Saffron Walden Arts Trust will organise its 2nd Saffron Walden Arts Festival in June this year. The Saffron Walden Arts Trust (SWAT) is led by a committee with members coming from Saffron Walden and a range of surrounding villages. With a minimal budget but bags of enthusiasm, SWAT managed to pull off a very successful first festival in June 2009 which was nominated for an award by the Essex Tourism Authority. This year's main events will have a wider range of concerts, plays, street performances and workshops for people from in and around Saffron Walden to enjoy. These include:



The Pantaloons with 'Macbeth' in Bridge End Gardens  
The Saffron Players with 'Noises Off' in the Town Hall  
The Choral Society with its Summer Prom in St Mary's  
An exhibition by local architects

Music and dance street performances on Saturday  
Literary events

Music, dance, art and craft workshops on Sunday  
Family picnic on the Common on Sunday  
Showcase of local music, dance and arts groups on Sunday  
'La Danse' film documentary by Frederick Wiseman at Saffron Screen on Monday

Most events will be free of charge and we welcome people from all areas and all age groups.



There will be two very special events in the 400-seat main marquee on the Common:

On Saturday – '**Saffron Walden's Got Talent**' – inviting all budding artists from Saffron Walden and area to showcase their skills. Details and application forms are available from the Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre or can be downloaded from the festival website:

[www.saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk/festival](http://www.saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk/festival)

On Sunday evening, a ten-piece band of fine musicians called the **Charleston Chasers** will perform hot vintage popular music from the roaring '20s and '30s. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre (01799 534002) or Wendy Upson (01799 550842) or by postal booking. Booking forms can be downloaded from website

As part of the festival, SWAT will be organising an Open Studio event on 19th–20th June. Over 20 artists from Saffron Walden and local villages will open their studios to visitors. There will also be a series of classical music at Hadstock Church on 20th, 22nd, 24th and 26th June. The Saffron Walden Arts Trust would welcome any support for its many projects. If you would like to help out with the festival, or be involved more long-term, please contact me.

Ulrike Balser

Tel: 01799 540132

Email: [info@saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk](mailto:info@saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk)



**Stansted  
Cricket  
Club**

The season got off to a sensational start with the 1st XI dismissing South Loughton II for 21 away from home! After winning by 10 wickets, the team was back in Stansted by 5.00pm to see the 2nd XI lose their derby match with Stansted Hall III by two wickets. Josh Monk got 65, our first half-century of the season. The following weekend the 1st XI beat High Beach by 111 runs with Charlie Kirby getting the first century of the season. The 2nd XI beat Birchanger II by 52 runs with Mark Johnson scoring 50.

The senior home fixtures for June are:

Sat 5th	13:30 2nd XI v Albury
Sun 6th	14:30 Sun XI v Matching Green
Sat 12th 1.30pm	2nd XI v Harlow Town II
Sun 13th	14:30 Sun XI v Springfield
Sat 19th	13:30 1st XI v Ashdon
Sat 26th	13:30 2nd XI v Farnham II
Sun 27th	14:30 Sun XI v Little Hallingbury

Anyone wishing to join the club should contact David Hedge (adults) on 812509 or Keith Ayres (juniors) on 814471.

**Stansted Cricket Club celebrates 150 years** on 11th July from 1.00pm onwards at Hargrave Park. We are holding a fun day for all the family - games, races, stalls, BBQ, tombo-la, cream teas, bar etc. We are asking if anyone would be interested in taking part and having your own stall to raise money for your organisation or good cause - please contact Sandra on 814471. The event will finish in time to watch the Football Final in the evening; let's hope we all will be wearing our England shirts!!!

David Hedge

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# Stansted Tennis Club



## Court Resurfacing

The courts were successfully resurfaced during April; then the painting and lining started on 10th May. Dependant on the weather, this should be completed within 10 days. When the courts are ready, members will be notified by email and posters at the club. Thank you to all for being so patient.

## Dates for your diary

Members with email addresses will be circulated with tournament details. There will also be posters and entry forms in the clubhouse. Unfortunately, the May Cayless Chilli, Clower Boys' Doubles and President's Cup tournaments had to be postponed due to the court resurfacing. The next tournament is Sunday 13th June - Clower Boys' Singles (age 15 and under) 12.45pm start.

## Club Tournament

To enter please add your name to the entry lists on the notice board. The lists will be up at least until the end of May to give players a fair chance to enter.

## Hospital Cup Competition

All First Round matches need to be played by 18th June.

## Coaching

If you would like to join the Friday 1.45pm-2.45pm adult coaching session, 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. Please call Chris for details. 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) will be changing his adult coaching slot from a Saturday afternoon to a Monday evening when the courts have been resurfaced. Please phone Martyn if you wish to join or if you want the latest update.

## Used Tennis balls

£1 per tube of four - choose your own! Owners of dogs who enjoy chasing balls may also wish to take up this offer. Please contact Jan Hollis on 812073.

## Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions: Wednesdays at 10.00am and 6.00pm.

Fridays at 9.30am. Sundays at 10.00am.

## Contacts

For 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

The Barnardo's Big Toddle is the biggest, brightest and best nation-wide fundraising event for under fives, from babies to nursery-age children. The Barnardo's Big Toddle is all about children helping children, and having big fun! We believe in helping youngsters in their early years as we know that a better start in life leads to a brighter future as an adult. In 2009, I organised the first Big Toddle in Stansted. Around 80 children attended this event on the Recreation Ground, helping to raise nearly £1000 in sponsorship between them. There was a walk (according to ability) around the Rec itself, then games to play with their parents before a bit of fun on the swings. The theme that Barnardo's are suggesting for this year is Pirates. We don't need much of an excuse to dress up, so please encourage your children to join in, and create their own pirate look! This year's event will take place on Friday 11th June from 11.00am, again on the Recreation Ground in Stansted. Please contact me if you wish for any further details about the event, or to get a sponsorship form.



Rachel Pocknell

Tel: 816215

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



## 'LINK' ARTICLES

The 'Link' occasionally receives items for publication from anonymous contributors. It is, however, our policy that the source of all published material must be known to the Editor irrespective of whether a name or pseudonym appears as attribution.

Editor

## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

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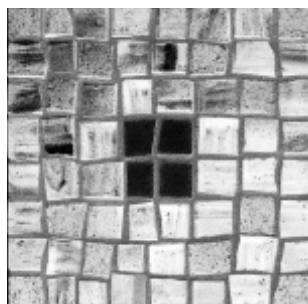
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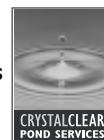
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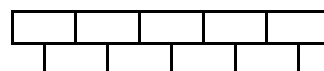


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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

The refurbishment is now complete and we are open to visitors on 30th and 31st May and subsequently on first Sundays and Mondays of bank holiday weekends. The cap now turns by the action of the fantail so that the sails are kept in the eye of the wind. Given a good wind, we shall be allowing them to turn when there is a Miller in attendance.

We will have a Celebration Afternoon on 19th June at 2.30pm when various windmill enthusiasts will be visiting and refreshments will be available from 3.00pm. Everyone is invited to this as it happens to be 100 years since the mill last worked and the sails frequently turned. We are grateful to English Heritage and the Parish Council for their generous financial input and to IJP Owlsworth Ltd for their painstaking diligence during a particularly harsh winter. To be 60ft up in zero degrees in January was, to put it mildly, uncomfortable. By happy coincidence the works foreman, Giles, was awarded his MSc in Heritage Conservation on the day when the Completion Certificate for the work was issued. Congratulations, Giles, we have been well served. Our gratitude also goes to the numerous volunteers who worked on the mill over many years and to those who have donated and in many cases continue to do so.

Stansted is fortunate in having such a prominent National Monument clearly visible from the main road. It contains the machinery used during its working days and will continue to be floodlit. The mill has a rich history currently being researched at the County Records Office by Alan Williams and Tudor Owen. Moreover, Tudor has compiled a photographic and video record of the restoration. Altogether we can claim to have reached a high point in its 223 year history.

Derek Honour



## BENTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was a very successful affair, apart from the wind and rain, which of course we had no control over! By the time you read this article we should have also had our May Fair which this year had a recycling theme, and I do hope that the weather was kinder to us. Our next event will be the annual Music in the Park on Saturday 10th July. Doors open at 1.30pm and our first live act will begin at 2.00pm. We will have our usual mixture of giant bouncy castles, bar area and barbeque and details of all the acts will follow in the next 'Link'. If you cannot wait till then we do now have a Facebook site: Music in the Park (Stansted) and also a website [www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk](http://www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk), which we will update as and when we have news! Tickets are adults £8 advance and £9 on the day, under 16s free if accompanied by a paying adult. For tickets please call 815496.



Kerry Freegard



## STANSTED FUN RUN

[www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk)  
[info@stansted10k.org.uk](mailto:info@stansted10k.org.uk)

### 11.00am Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Bentfield Green

We have already had over 100 entries for this year's event. Entry fees are: 16+ £8 in advance (£10 on the day); under 16s £4 in advance and on the day. Entry forms can be obtained from: The Rose and Crown, Romeera Leisure Centre, Livingwell Health Club, Stansted Chiropractic Clinic, King's Butchers, and the Library; telephone 814059 or email [info@stansted10k.org.uk](mailto:info@stansted10k.org.uk). Entry forms can be downloaded from our website, [www.stansted10k.org.uk](http://www.stansted10k.org.uk) where you can also enter on-line using a credit or debit card. Sponsorship forms are available, and you can have your entry fee refunded if you raise more than £15 (adults) or £10 (children) in sponsorship money for the Fun Run charities: St Clare Hospice, Assin Endwa, Samaritan's Purse, Stansted Day Centre and Uttlesford Community Travel. Advance entry closes on 11th June but you can enter on the day 10.00am–10.45 am. Warm up routines and sports massage from 10.00am.

A big thank you to those who have responded to our appeals for helpers. We still need more marshals. This involves standing at a point along the route guiding the runners and walkers, and calling for assistance if necessary (you will be given a list of whom to contact). We would also be very pleased to hear from any local businesses who would be interested in sponsoring us. All our sponsors are publicised on our website and on Bentfield Green on the day of the run.

Everyone is welcome to join this great family day; attractions include barbecue, ice cream, and children's face painting. See you there!

Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: [info@stansted10k.org.uk](mailto:info@stansted10k.org.uk)



Whatever the weather this summer - come outside with your baby. Spangles Children's Centre is inviting all parents and carers of babies and toddlers to join us on our buggy fitness walks. Outdoor exercise can lift your mood while helping you to lose weight and tone your body. You can also talk as you walk so it's a great way to meet other parents.



**When?** Every Tuesday at 11.00am, starting on 25th May  
**Where?** Meet at the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre  
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Lesley Murdoch  
Outreach Worker

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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

It is now a year since Stansted Mountfitchet U3A was formed – time seems to have gone so quickly. We have 210 members and are still receiving enquiries from potential new members on a weekly basis. It has been a busy year and I would like to thank all the Committee members and Leaders who have put in so much of their time and effort to get this branch and its activities off the ground. As a result we now have around 20 different activities running. These include Theatre Trips, Outings, Art, Book Club, Bridge, Computer skills, French, Gardening, Genealogy, Italian, Spanish, Knitting/Crochet, Photography, Pilates, Scrabble, Singing, Tai Chi, and the ever popular Lunch Club and Walking group. Our Activities Co-ordinator, Eileen, is always willing to look into new ideas so if there is anything you are interested in or would like to suggest then please speak with Eileen at the next meeting and she will be happy to help.

Some of our members may recall that a couple of months ago we had an excellent talk by the Local Crime Prevention officer from Essex Police. One of the subjects he spoke about was home security and he showed a small alarm that could be hung on the inside handles of doors or windows and if anyone 'touched' the outside of the door the alarm went off. Simple, yet effective – anyone can use them. Due to the interest shown in these alarms I have now managed to acquire a limited number at a cost of £4 each. These are available to members and their families, so if anyone would like one or want to know more please give me a ring.

### Forthcoming Outings:

13th June 'Nature Walk with Wildlife Man' - Tour of local Nature Reserve and Picnic.

19th June 'Champagne Picnic Concert' at Little Easton

23rd June 'Sister Act' at London Palladium – Fully booked

16th July 'Newmarket Nights'. Evening Race meeting and concert with Simply Red

Our next meeting will be at 2.00pm in St John's Hall on Thursday 17th June when our Speaker will be Brian Curtois whose topic will be 'Thirty years a BBC Reporter – In and out of Parliament'. As the subject indicates, Brian was a BBC reporter for over 30 years, and during this time he saw tremendous changes in the way news in general and Parliament in particular is reported. He was an important member of the BBC team that set up their televising of Parliament operation and he played a leading role when televising started in the House of Commons. His talk takes us behind the scenes at Westminster. He includes memories of interesting and often amusing stories he covered and some of the notable people he encountered during his reporting career. If you are thinking of joining us or would just like to see what we do at our meetings then please just come along. You do not have to be a member for your first visit so come and meet us and we guarantee a warm welcome. Should you wish to chat beforehand or ask any questions then please contact me.

Cherry Venn  
 Chair  
 Tel: 81714

## POTHOLES (again)

In this issue there is reference in the 'Network' section to the unsatisfactory surface of Water Lane, part of which is illustrated below.



Following the return from the Easter break, the older children are starting to prepare for their move to big school. With the start of the summer term, the children are concentrating on staying safe in the sun and are encouraged to always wear a sun-hat when outside, use sun-block and drink plenty of water. The children are looking at the life cycle of the frogs that have hatched from spawn into tadpoles and are eagerly awaiting the appearance of some legs. As part of their continued learning about healthy eating, the children have been looking at the story 'Handa's Surprise', about a child who places seven different delicious fruits in a basket to take to her friend and encounters lots of interesting animals on her way. This has been followed by a day-trip to Waitrose in Bishop's Stortford to taste and purchase fruit and vegetables for their healthy snack and to discuss which countries their snacks came from. As part of their Community Matters Scheme, Waitrose presented us with cheque for £340, which has been accepted with many thanks. Finally, please come and visit our stall at St Mary's School Fête on Sunday 13th June for a selection of World Cup themed goodies.

If you are interested in a place at the pre-school from September please contact Gill Pursglove on 814701 for further information. If you are interested in a place for your child at Rainbow Tots (age 18 months to 2½ years) please contact Tina South on 814371.

Liz Stanley  
 Rainbow Committee

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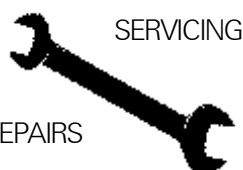
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## 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps

### 494. Do I have to say any more?

Taking home the Falklands Trophy, staying sky high with flying and gliding, and keeping active with sports nights that include football, hockey and the occasional assault course. This month has been topped with activities, especially Blue Camp at RAF Cranwell, which had 40 cadets from Essex getting to experience the life of servicemen, servicewomen and more. The Camp gave the experienced flyers the chance to have an hour's flight in a King Air, others having the thrill of the Grob Tutor. The camp also allowed the cadets to further their shooting skills, wander around RAF museums, and, of course, raiding the gift shop. The week ended with a bang at the disco, where glow sticks and a night of raving left everyone begging to stay.

Other than relaxation, this month has concentrated on the tougher side of 494 life, with a variety of physical activities, focusing on the Falklands Trophy. The sports nights got the cadets working as teams in a range of games and competitions. The basic skills camps saw the cadets coping with field life, learning how to pitch a tent, and enjoying delicious experiences of Ration Packs.

And on to, finally ... The Falklands Memorial Competition! This saw 12 of our cadets competing in the two-day test, displaying skills including; archery, the command task and finally the 19km navigation exercise, leaving our cadets longing for bed, however, more importantly, victorious! With our first team having grabbed the gold with double the honours of the runner up, the six will go on to the Tri-Service Falklands Competition, facing Army and Navy cadets in two days of fierce rivalry.



If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, contact us for more information: telephone 681559/ 661929 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm–9.30pm (24 hour answer phone) or email: [494@aircadets.org](mailto:494@aircadets.org).

Cadet Sergeant Alice Brooks  
494 Squadron ATC



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

As you will know, our May meeting is the last of the season and also doubles as the Annual General Meeting. This year was no different and our Chairman, Peter Brown, conducted the proceedings with his usual aplomb, which meant that we were able to hear Peter Sanders make this year's presentation without too much delay. Peter had researched the situation between the farmers and farm labourers in the 19th century, a time of great change which affected this locality severely.

Essentially, the price of wheat had dropped from the heights it reached during the Napoleonic Wars, when many farmers had given over much land to the growing of wheat and other crops, at the expense of pasture and the production of livestock. With the fall in income, the farmers had to bring down expenses in order to make a profit and therefore reduced the wages of their labourers. Unfortunately, the labourers were already living at subsistence levels and the reduction from nine shillings a week with beer to eight shillings with beer led to much suffering. This, in turn, led to the Stansted Riot of 1834, which more properly could be understood to be a strike but which was dealt with by the authorities as the more serious alternative with the result that two men were condemned to a year's hard labour. Three years prior to that and for a very similar reason, there had been a similar demonstration in Stansted and other 'riots' took place in several Essex villages.

The effects of the failure of the strike and the introduction of the Poor Law Act of 1834 led to an uneasy peace, which developed into something more sinister. A rash of incendiarism broke out in the area, not so much in Stansted (although it was not thought to be unknown) but certainly in Manuden, our near neighbours. In some cases police had to preserve order to allow firemen to do their work. In addition, the Union assisted under-employment in many parts of Essex by encouraging and helping many labourers and their families to emigrate - some to Yorkshire but many to Canada, Australia and America. Peter is continuing his research, only the bare outlines of which I have been able to give here, and we sincerely hope he will be sharing it with us - in any case, we were grateful to him for telling us of his efforts so far (and to the members of the Committee for bringing to life extracts from papers of the time).

We next meet on Thursday 2nd September, in the Day Centre, Crafton Green, and I understand that David Harrison will be publishing his programme of speakers in a future edition of the 'Link'. In the meantime, I wish you a very pleasant summer!



Ian Seavers



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This term we have been welcoming new children into the school. We have had further pupils joining Key Stage 2. We have also been running our transition programme which introduces into St Mary's the children who will join our Foundation Stage in September. This has proved a successful programme over the years and is thanks to the close liaison we have with Rainbow Pre-School in particular. The programme includes all the new pupils whatever nursery they attend. They visit the school for a number of sessions to experience different parts of the school day including the computer suite, playtime, PE and many other activities.

We have also had our annual meeting with the Ben Jonson School in Tower Hamlets. They were staying at the field study centre at Gorsefield Hall when our Year 5 and 6 pupils went to spend an afternoon of orienteering and comparing notes on their schools and lifestyles.



The school choir performed the cantata 'Noah and his Floating Zoo' at the Worship for All service in May. We felt very proud of the children who had worked hard on the piece and sang really well! Our next venture is a school concert by the choir, dancers and musicians for parents and families at the end of the term.

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

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher

## **Summer Fayre Sunday 13th June**

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## THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE PRESERVATION TRUST

A ten-strong volunteer team from across Essex and Herts has begun tackling an interim restoration project in the Italian Garden within the Gardens of Easton Lodge under the supervision of Writtle College horticulture student Robert Hanchet. Two flowerbeds in the sunken garden designed by Harold Peto for Daisy, Countess of Warwick a century ago have now been cleared in preparation for planting with large, tender perennial plants in mainly reds, mauves and silvers. The idea is to create a transitional planting before a full restoration takes place. Most of the plants are being grown from seed and cuttings. Some of the plants which originally featured in the Italian Garden, described in contemporary Edwardian gardening journals, including canna, dahlia and heliotrope will also be included in the current scheme in keeping with the spirit of historical accuracy. The two new beds will be well developed by late summer.

In the meantime, visitors to the opening of the Gardens on Sunday 20th June are in for a very special treat as the marvellous array of Old English roses elsewhere in the gardens come into bloom, notably the very special and much loved Belle de Crecy rose. The season then continues with Sunday openings on 18th July, 22nd August, 19th September and 10th October. Entry to the Gardens costs just £2.50 (children free). Picnics are welcome and homemade refreshments are on sale during opening hours (12 noon to 6.00pm). Further information is available from 01371 876979, email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk) or online at [www.eastonlodge.co.uk](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk). The Gardens are located just outside Great Dunmow in Little Easton, off the B184. Follow the brown heritage signs.

Carol Barbone  
Tel: 07775 523091  
Email: [cbarbone@mxco.co.uk](mailto:cbarbone@mxco.co.uk)



### Nature Notes

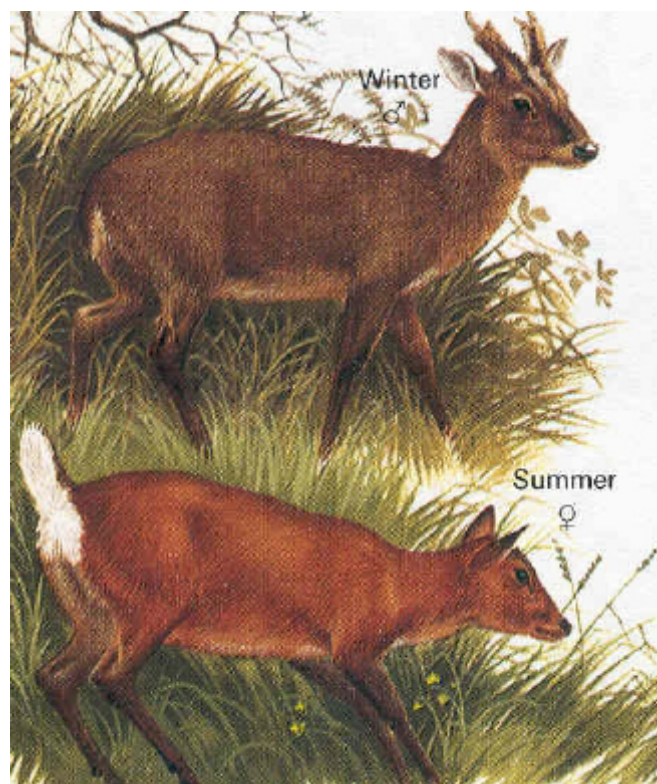
It is a pleasant surprise to see the number of small garden birds that have survived the harsh winter. In my garden robins and coal tits are breeding well and even wrens and goldcrests are in evidence.

It is a curious fact that at a time when the human population is increasing in the south-east and so many green acres are being turned to brown or grey, the numbers of several wild creatures seems to be rising also. Thirty or so years ago it was a rare event to see a badger and fallow deer were much less evident then. Foxes are now urban dwellers while pigeon, carrion crows and muntjac are, to our cost, overabundant. Some, like hares and amphibians, are less common but the overall population is surprisingly buoyant. This should not deceive us into thinking that all is well in the great outdoors, as a glance at the list of endangered species

will demonstrate, so our own modest attempts at conservation should continue.



*Brown hares:  
seen less frequently*



*Muntjac deer:  
seen more frequently*

There is a welcome tendency to popularise native plants in our gardens and to integrate them with cultivated species in the style of the great Gertrude Jekyll. On a garden scale the invasive ones can be controlled and some like lesser celandine and ragged robin have a short period of dominance. Increasingly the smaller species of narcissus and tulips are gaining favour. They avoid the legacy imposed by the large or florists' species of leaving large clusters of strappy foliage in view for weeks after flowering. To echo Schumacher, small is beautiful.

Derek Honour

# Index to Advertisers

		Page			Page
Animal Care	Mercer & Hughes	BC	Household Services	A Better Aerial	28
Art and Craft	Millway Stationery	10		Bin Done	BC
Community & Care	Alzheimer's Society	26		A&M Collins Roofing	BC
	Carers UK	8		Do-It-4U	10
	Hearing Help	30		D T Bedroom Design	22
	Helpline	8		Fairweather Windows	FC
	Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club	24		Finch and Son	BC
	Uttlesford Carers	8		Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	28
	Ugley Village Hall (for hire)	32		Herts & Essex Window Doctor	24
Computing & Office	Alan Horsley (Computer Repairs)	8		JP Tiling	32
	Lan One (Accessories & Repairs)	28		Luxury Toilet Hire	24
	TCS (Set Up & Repairs)	12		Newman's Home Services	12
Education	Adult Community Learning	34		Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	30
	Montessori Day Nursery	28		Pest Control	34
	Rainbow Pre-School	30	Leisure	Purrfect Cleaning Company	24
	Spangles Children's Centre	6		Back to Basics (Pilates)	10
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	12		Graham School of Dance	22
	A&I Electrical	16		Mitchell School of Dance	16
	Ethical Electrical	24	Motoring & Cycling	Melody Bear (for children)	26
	Stansted Electric	12		D Bonney & Sons	6
	Zelta Batteries	32		C C Valeting	28
Financial & Legal	Greenways Financial Planning	6		David Nunn's Garage	30
	Mansell & Co	BC	Painting & Decorating	Kiss (Driving Tuition)	32
	Pothecary Witham Weld	34		Ada Decorating	30
	The Utility Warehouse	24		Perfect Plastering	8
Food & Lodging	Bada Bing!	FC		Ray Morton (Decorating)	8
	Chocolates for Chocoholics	32	Personal Services	Shutes Painting & Decorating	16
	Eddie Ho Fish & Chips	8		Alterations by Manuela	BC
	Itsamaison (Holiday Cottage)	24		Baby Massage	32
	Pocknell Food Co	8		Dovaston-Harris (Beauty)	22
	The Cock at Henham	FC		Fancy Fingers (Beauty)	32
	The Cock (Stansted)	BC		Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapist)	30
	The Dog & Duck	BC		R Handford (Chiropodist)	16
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	6		Jan Menell (Birth Preparation)	8
	J Day & Son	8		Jenna Perkins Massage	28
	D C Poulton & Sons	22		Lavender Blue (Health & Beauty)	10
Furniture & Furnishings	Fabrications	12		Lino Thomas (Hairdressing)	30
	Kate Harrison	32		Lower Street Clinic	34
	Knightbrooks (Carpets)	BC		Mobile Hairdressing	12
	Mosaics (Table Mats & Plaques)	26		NFSH	16
	New Look (Upholsterers)	26		Stansted Chiropractic	6
	Stansted Carpets	28		Stansted Psychotherapy	30
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	N W Brown (Landscapes)	32	Printing & Stationery	Williams (Osteopath)	10
	Crystal Clear Ponds	26		What's a name's (Hairdressing)	BC
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	BC	Property Services	Copyzone	12
	H2O Plants	16		PhoenixTrading (cards)	30
	Selina Rankin Garden Design	16		Aldwych Construction	8
	Steve Hall Garden Services	32		Ampersand Associates	26
	J R Johnston (Trees)	8		Bareham Overy Partnership	28
	Mayfair Ponds	22		Chris Osborn (Brickwork)	26
Heating & Plumbing	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	BC		Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	28
	JDW Gas Heating Specialist	26		Jason Bagge Architecture	24
	Jones & Co (Plumbing)	8		Masons (Builders)	BC
	Orion Heating	BC		Persimmon Homes	34
	Ray the Plumber	12		Savill Brickwork	26
	Stansted Gas Services	28	Retailers	A C Wright Building Contractors	12
				Family News	12
				John Wilson Jeweller	10

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