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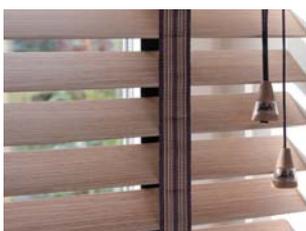


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by **noon** on 11th June
 for the July issue

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EDITORIAL



The sight of two ducks blissfully sailing across the large temporary lake that stretched from one side of Snakes Lane to the other was a clear indication of just how much rain we had in April and May. Yet we are still 'in drought', and likely to be so for quite some time according to the experts. So we all need to do our bit in the home and garden, and be water aware, conserving as much of this precious resource as we can. Reporting any mains' leaks promptly (and repeatedly until they are fixed!) will also help to minimise unnecessary wastage.

We welcome Alan Wheeler, who has very kindly offered to take on the Treasurer's role, and Catherine Dean to 'The Link' Committee. However, we are still looking for a Distribution Collator, see page 4.

June promises to be a busy month in Stansted with many Jubilee events and activities planned, as well as the Fun Run and Music In The Park. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment from those involved in staging these affairs, so let's hope the rain will pause long enough for us to fully support - and above all enjoy them. Some sun would be nice, wouldn't it?

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

DISCLAIMER Opinions expressed in this magazine are given freely and do not necessarily represent those of the editorial committee.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The arrival of June signals the start of the summer holiday season. For many people this is a time to escape the hum-drum routine of everyday life. An opportunity to embrace something new and exciting. A chance to unwind without the usual cares and concerns of a busy life ruled by time.

While some jet off abroad to exotic seaside resorts, others choose something closer to home. I recall the writer and director Jonathan Miller remarking that his ideal holiday would be a couple of weeks in the house opposite his own home in London. This might seem a peculiar choice. However, I think he was suggesting that holidays can be an opportunity to view life from a fresh perspective; to see routine and familiar things from a slightly different angle.

In August 1960, the politician Enoch Powell went on holiday to Butlin's at Clacton-on-Sea; an unlikely spot, perhaps, for a man of Powell's disposition and tastes. I don't know if he indulged in the pleasures of the Gaiety Theatre or the Crazy Horse Saloon, but he certainly wasted no time in applying his prodigious intellectual powers to produce an essay on the nature of time called *Alpha and Omega*. He observed that holidays are a good opportunity to think a little about time: "We are doing different things, in different places and to a different programme; and this break in the rhythm, or repetition, of our lives gives us the chance to pause a moment and look at ourselves, as it were, from the outside."

Looking at ourselves from 'the outside' is an opportunity to reflect afresh on who we are and what really matters in our lives. To see our true selves a little more clearly may offer some sense of the eternal as time breathes down our necks. We should make the most of our holidays, whenever and wherever they happen.

Jonathan Morrell
Stansted Quaker Meeting



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for June

3rd 10.30 am Rev'd Stuart Veitch – New Directions
10th 10.30 am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
17th 10.30 am Maureen Kendle
24th 10.30 am No service – Fun Run

The Free Churches in Stansted through the Years

Over the Jubilee Weekend we will be holding an exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia depicting the life of Stansted Methodist and Stansted United Reformed (formerly Congregational) churches over the past 60 years. We invite you to browse photographs of weddings, baptisms, children's activities and other events, which will be on display in the church and the hall. Opening times: Saturday 2nd June 10.00am-4.30pm, Sunday 3rd June 2.00-5.00pm, Monday 4th June 10.00am-4.30pm. All welcome - entry free. Refreshments.

Valerie Trundle
Tel: 813433

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



ST JOHN'S NEWS

300 Club Many congratulations to the winners of the last draws for 2011/12 held on 29 April:

£100 No 213 - Pauline Mantle
 £ 50 No 16 - Doris Thistle
 £ 25 No 210 - Eileen Quinn

The first draws for the new year of operation will be carried out on Sunday 27th May in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. There are still numbers available if anyone would like to join or to add to the numbers they already hold (up to a maximum of five per household) at a cost of £2 per number per month. Please contact me if you would like an application form or further details.

Francine Cope
 Tel: 814562

Harry Davies Recent weeks have seen the passing of three faithful members of our congregation. Rene Sanders and Janet Poole-Adams have their Tributes on other pages of this issue. To these should be added an appreciation of the life of Harry Davies. Although latterly a resident of Elsenham, Harry lived for years in Stansted and was a regular occupant of the back row at 9.30am on most Sundays. After a long period of wartime and post-war service in the RAF, firstly as a cook and then in administration with the rank of flight sergeant, he ended his working life as manager of Pearsons store in Bishops Stortford, a role for which he was admirably suited. He was the epitome of the perfect gentleman, always dressed for the occasion and unfailingly courteous. In every sense it was a privilege to have known him. Our condolences go to his family, including grandchildren and great grandchildren. On behalf of all three from our church we say, "May they Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory".

Derek Honour

ST JOHN'S FLOWER FESTIVAL

60 Glorious Years

Saturday 2nd-Monday 4th June

St John's Church will be beautifully decorated with flowers to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, open as follows:

Saturday 11.00am-4.00pm with refreshments
 Sunday 12.00 noon-4.00pm with refreshments
 Monday 12.00 noon-4.00pm will be a Family Fun Day, with games, sideshows, stalls, refreshments and raffle

Entrance is by £1 lucky number programme, and the winning programme will win a prize each day! Children free. St John's will be wonderful - fit for a queen - do come and visit!

Rosaleen Nagle



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

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

Director of Music: Vacant

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
 9.30am Worship4all (1st Sunday)
 9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd-5th Sundays)

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
 (9.00am on Saturday)

Tuesday

9.15am-10.30am St John's Tots

Wednesday

8.30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

From the Registers

April

Funerals

4th Doreen Newman, age 81 - at Stansted cemetery
 17th Andrew Stone, age 52 - at Parndon Wood
 19th Irene Sanders, age 83 - at St Mary's
 24th Kevin Halsey, age 47 - at Stansted cemetery
 25th Gwen Saunders, age 92 - at Parndon Wood

ANNUAL TEA PARTY

**St Mary's Church, Friday 15th - Sunday 17th June
Art, Photography and Embroidery Exhibition**

The Annual Tea Party is a national event and many of the 343 churches throughout the country will be taking part. Our churches are kept open, loved and living once again in the heart of our communities.

Friday 15th June at 7.30pm

Exhibition Preview Party. There will be no charge for this event. Wine and refreshments will be on sale during the evening. If you have not received an entry form, and you would like one, please contact either Sally Argent on 812418, email: argent62@btinternet.com, or myself at your earliest opportunity. Please note a 20% commission will be charged on all items sold. We would like to have all completed entry forms returned by 1st June if possible, in order that we may prepare a full programme before the event.

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June 11.00am-5.00pm

We look forward to welcoming visitors to our Tea Party, when in addition to pictures and embroidery for sale, we will be selling plants and second-hand books. There will also be a raffle and teas will be on sale throughout our opening times.

There is a wealth of artistic talent in Stansted and we hope you will come and enjoy a cup of tea with us in this beautiful setting. I've often heard people say that although they have lived in Stansted for 20 or 30 years they "have not been inside St Mary's Church." Now is your chance, do come long and see us; we are very welcoming to all our visitors.

Audrey Rodgers
Chairman
Friends of St Mary's Stansted Mountfitchet
Tel: 812162

JAZZ @ ST JOHN'S

The last Friday of April saw St John's Church resounding to the mellifluous sounds of Pete Baker's Half Dozen playing an eclectic range of jazz music from the Roaring '20s, Flirty '30s through to the Swinging '60s and Rock 'n Roll. Pete kicked off the evening with *Chinatown* and 98 people soon got tapping and nodding away, then jiving with consummate skill in many cases. Half time saw a light supper served and an obligatory raffle was held. A presentation of a gift voucher was made to Alastair and Jane Richardson as a token of our appreciation for their kicking off this happy event almost 10 years ago. The last session of the evening saw some quite exotic dancing from the Charleston/Black Bottom era and one enthusiast demonstrated what can only be described as 'Danse Nouveau' – will it catch on – we could do with a new 'Twist'!?



Although numbers were slightly down this year there were some new faces and my thanks to all who made it another enjoyable evening. The event raised just over £530, a useful contribution to hall funds. I would particularly like to thank all those people who stayed behind after the event and gave a hand in clearing up and re-setting out the chairs. By 12.30pm you would never have known such a cracking evening had been held.

Ray Smith
Hall Committee Chairman

SPECIAL PERSON WANTED

'The Link' is looking for a volunteer to take over from our distribution collator. This is an important role within our team, requiring a special person. Tasks include assessing the number of magazines required each month, posting to those outside Stansted, delivering a few within the village (the majority are delivered by paid distributors), dealing with distribution enquiries, and liaising with both the Parish Council and our Advertising Manager. Please contact either myself or Derek on 647213 for more details.

Yvonne Ayres
Tel: 814706



SHALOM

On Monday 11th June at 7 Blythwood Gardens we invite Shalom members to bring an article (on any topic) from a newspaper or magazine which will stimulate discussion. Our 'At home' is on Monday 25th June at The White House, Ugley Green. All are welcome. Both meetings start at 8.00pm.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



**The Free Churches
in Stansted
throughout the
years**

An exhibition of photographs and other memorabilia from Stansted Methodist & URC Churches

Sat 2nd June 10 am - 4.30 pm
Sun 3rd June 2 - 5 pm
Mon 4th June 10 am - 4.30 pm

Entry FREE ~ Refreshments

St John's, Stansted II

60 Glorious Years

Flowers for the Diamond Jubilee

Sat 2nd June 11 am - 4 pm
Sun 3rd June 12 - 4 pm
Mon 4th June 12 - 4 pm *with
Family Fun Day ~ Stalls etc*

Entry £1 by lucky number programme
Children FREE ~ Refreshments



**Stansted Windmill
Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm**

**Jubilee Weekend
Sun 3rd & Mon 4th June**

With a Local History Society display of early and recent Stansted Celebrations (first floor)

All Welcome ~ Refreshments

VILLAGE EVENTS

June

2	Sat	Through the years Exhibition Flower Festival	Free Church 10 am - 4.30 pm St John's Church 11 am - 4 pm
3	Sun	Flower Festival Through the years Exhibition	St John's Church 12 - 4 pm Free Church 2 - 5 pm
3	Sun / 4	Mon Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
4	Mon	Through the years Exhibition Flower Festival & Fun Day	Free Church 10 am - 4.30 pm St John's Church 12 - 4 pm
6	Wed	Mountfitchet Club Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
8	Fri	NCT Red, White & Blue party	St John's Hall 2 - 4 pm
9 & 23	Sat	Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
9	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
11	Mon	Link copy due in today Shalom	before 12 noon 7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
14	Thu	WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
15	Fri	Hill Chillii Exhibition Preview Party	31 Chapel Hill 7 - 10 pm St Mary's Church 7.30 pm
16	Sat & 17	Sun Annual Tea Party	St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm
17	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
20	Wed	W I Jubilee Cream Tea	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
23	Sat	Fun Day & Barn Dance SWCS Jubilee Prom	St Mary's School 3 - 8 pm St John's Church 7.30 pm
24	Sun	Fun Run	Bentfield Green 11 am
25	Mon	Shalom At Home	White House, Ugley Green 8 pm
30	Sat	Stansted Family Café Music in The Park Ugley Village Fête	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am Bentfield School 2 - 8 pm Crowns, Pound Lane 2 - 4.30 pm



**7 - 10 pm
Fri 15th June**

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St Mary's Church



Art, Photography & Embroidery Exhibition

**Fri 15th June 7.30 pm
Exhibition Preview Party**

Entry free - wine & refreshments on sale

**Sat 16th & Sun 17th June
11 am - 5 pm**

Exhibition ~ Plants ~ Books ~ Raffle ~ Teas

The Mountfitchet
Maths & Computing
College PTA



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Teas ~ Barbecue ~ Fire Engine

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Adults £1 Children Free

St Mary's School PTA

Fun Day & Barn Dance

3 - 8 pm Sat 23rd June

Barn Dance start at 5 pm

Bouncy Castle ~ Face Painting
Ice Creams ~ BBQ ~ Bar

Entry £6.50 (incl first drink)

One child under 16 FREE with paying
adult ~ Additional children 50p

Bentfield School PTA



2 - 8 pm Sat 30th June

Live music to suit all tastes
BBQ ~ Bar ~ Bouncy Castle

Tickets £8 advance, £10 on the gate
Accompanied under 16s free

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www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk



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Bentfield Green 11am

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St John's Church

£10 adults, (accompanied under 18s £1)

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Sarah Ludlow-Elston 814376

www.wegotickets.com or at the door

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Tony Boardman

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SUNDAY 24th JUNE 11am Bentfield Green

Warm-up Routine, Chiropractor & Sports Massage from 10.15

NEW this year - CHIP TIMING

Please help the organisers by registering in advance

Avoid the queues on the day AND save £2

Enter on-line (no additional charge) by 21st June or by post by 15th June

Entry forms from website www.stansted10k.org.uk or call 01279 814059

Register on the day between 10 and 10.45 am only

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

Fees: 16+ £11 (£13 on the day), Under 16 £5 (advance & on the day)

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All proceeds to: Macmillan Cancer Support, Stanmore Aspire, Water Aid,
Crossroads Care East Anglia, Stansted Windmill



STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET
WINDMILL

STANSTED MILLERS

As we all know, we ask a lot of our ancient monument, built in 1787. We want it to perform with the sails turning in the wind for all to see. The last couple of years have seen the Mill face many problems as it settles down after the recent renovation work, the latest of which was the discovery that two metal sail rods had broken free and were dangling precariously from the sails. This represented a dangerous situation and we may not have been able to open the Mill for the Bank Holiday weekend. However, the danger was quickly averted when Rapid Platforms of Spellbrook came to the rescue and provided a 'cherry picker'. With the aid of our engineer, Steve Mansfield, assisted by two of our Millers, Tudor Owen and Richard Thomas, the rods were removed and we were able to open the Mill on the Sunday and Monday, and despite the dismal weather we had quite a few visitors. There is still work to be done to rectify some mechanical problems but it is hoped these can be resolved and it will not be too long before the cap is turning into the wind and the sails are once again turning. A reminder that the mill is open over the Jubilee Weekend on Sunday 3rd and Monday 4th June 1.30pm-5.30pm, and we look forward to having lots of visitors.

Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768



Huw Johnson
Club

Tony Gurr, who has been one of the Club's stalwart drivers for many years, has had to cease driving the minibus. We are immensely grateful for all that he and Linda have done for many years. This means that there is a pressing need for a successor starting in September, ie two journeys to and from Saffron Walden about six times a year. The Club would of course meet the ECC test fee if necessary. This role is an outstanding example of service to disadvantaged people, so please consider whether you or someone you know could fill the gap, and contact Marion (see below).

Derek Honour

We are very sorry to say goodbye to the Richardson family who are moving back to Scotland. They have been stalwart supporters of the Club, both as drivers and scribes, and we shall miss them all very much. We stayed in a hotel near their home once, and it is a very beautiful part of Scotland. With their departure, we will need a driver to take one of our members back to Elsenham, alternating with two other drivers. Please contact me if you could fill this gap for us. Since last month, we have enjoyed a disco for Andrew's birthday, and celebrated several others with delicious cakes. Sarah's birthday is coming up and she makes her own cake!

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

There will be **no** general meeting on Thursday 21st June, as we are having a ticket only event for members.

Committee

On behalf of Stansted U3A's membership, I would like to thank all of the committee members, group leaders and other volunteers, who readily give up their time in order to enhance and bring pleasure and fun into the lives of others. I am sure everyone has benefited in some way with their involvement and many new friendships formed by joining. If there is anyone else who would like to set up a new group please do not hesitate to come forward. If you would like to volunteer your help at any time please let a Committee member know.

Forthcoming Activities

If anyone is interested in the summer break to the German Rhine/Moselle areas please contact Maggie or Jan, but note there are no single rooms remaining. A day trip to Oxford has been organised for Wednesday 11th July. Cost is £25.50 including the river boat trip (which follows either a packed lunch or a pub/restaurant lunch) passing through beautiful countryside and finishing in the market town of Abingdon. The journey links two hugely popular waterside pubs: 'The Head of the River' in Oxford and 'The Nag's Head' in Abingdon. More details from Maggie 503848 or Jan 812481.

Activities

Despite being one of the wettest and windiest days this year, a full coach set off for a day in Brighton last month. On arrival the tide was in and the huge waves pounded the beach. One or two from the Photography Group seized the opportunity to capture the dramatic scenes on camera. Once off the coach, some people wandered off to look in the Pavilion whilst others mooched around The Lanes for bargains. Everyone took advantage of trying out the wide range of restaurants and other eateries for lunch. The rain did ease in the afternoon and we even saw sunshine on the way home. The Cycling Group has had numerous outings locally taking in both the countryside and cafés on route. The Local Natural History Group has walked several areas around Stansted identifying the season's fauna and flora. There are a number of activity/interest groups based in the village to appeal to all its membership. Please see our website www.stanstedu3a.org for full details, or contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore

STANSTED MEETING'S QUAKER PASSOVER CELEBRATION

On Good Friday afternoon, several of the Stansted Quakers met to celebrate Passover. This was wonderfully organised by Daniel Brett, who had researched the Jewish celebration, and had adapted it for 21st century Quakers. There were two basic ideas behind this. Firstly, we wanted to explore the Jewish origins of our religious traditions in a spirit of ecumenism. Secondly, as the Last Supper was actually a Passover meal, we wanted to understand the Christian Easter story more fully. Daniel brought seder plates, on which we had celery, lettuce (bitter herbs), an egg and charoset, all provided and made by him and his family. We also had matzah, although not of the type Jews would use for Passover, as they would need matzah which had been overseen by rabbis. We had grape juice as 'the fruit of the vine' rather than wine, and our food was not kosher. There were seven candles, and roasted lamb shankbones, as a reminder of the lamb's blood painted on the Jewish thresholds to keep the angel of death away. The whole meal was ritualised in a highly symbolic manner, during which we read around the table about the meaning of what we were doing, and the story of the enslavement and escape from Egypt, as told in Exodus. There was also a reading from Quaker Faith and Practice (Edward Burrough, 1659) section 23.11, which tied our own beliefs to the ancient story of the struggle for freedom and justice. After reading about the plagues of Egypt, Daniel had included 10 modern plagues: hunger, war, tyranny, greed, bigotry, injustice, poverty, ignorance, pollution of the Earth, indifference to suffering. We ended with a short period of silence, then ate delicious chicken soup with matzah balls, made by Jonathan. Finally we opened the door, so that Elijah the Prophet of Peace could enter, and each poured some of our wine into a separate glass for him.



It was a wonderful experience. The spirit of fellowship in the Meeting was strong, and I felt at the end of it that I understood an important part of our cultural and religious tradition much better. It certainly helped to form a bridge between the Jewish and Christian traditions. There was plenty to think about in terms of relevance to today's problems, and modern Quaker concerns and convictions. I think I have not yet absorbed all these, and we literally had plenty of food for thought. We are very grateful to Daniel and his family for so generously giving us this enjoyable and thought-provoking experience.

Jane Mitchell
Stansted Quaker Meeting

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SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2012

This year's main Summer Reading Challenge is *Story Lab* - a hi-tech HQ in the centre of a dynamic city. It attracts stories from all over the world and sends them spinning throughout the city - and beyond! For this year's Summer Reading Challenge the children of Essex are needed to boost the imagination of the *Story Lab* by visiting their local library and reading lots of books. When children join they will receive a model *Story Lab*. Each time they read two books they will collect stickers for their *Story Lab* (including some scratch and sniff). Children need to read a total of six books over the summer holidays to complete the challenge and receive a medal. Children of any age can take part, and will all receive a certificate. They can join any time from Saturday 21st July and have until Saturday 8th September to finish and collect their medals. *Story Lab* is an official project in the Cultural Olympiad's London 2012 Festival.

Children aged 10 and over can also take part in a separate challenge - *metropolis*. Sponsored by map producers Codair, participants will be given a map featuring some of London's most iconic landmarks. They need to research six of the landmarks to complete the challenge as well as reading and thinking about books and films. They will receive a DVD voucher and a sports watch on completion. Essex County Councillor Jeremy Lucas, Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture said: "The Summer Reading Challenge is the UK's biggest reading event for children in libraries. It's a great way for children and their families to enjoy books together and it means that children are encouraged to practise their reading skills, helping to prepare them for the start of the new school year."

Vivianne Goodfellow
Supervisor, Stansted Library
Tel: 815149

Email: vivian.goodfellow@essex.gov.uk

ANYONE FOR MINI TENNIS Would you support?

I would like to propose an idea for the addition of two Mini Tennis Courts in Elsenham village, and would be interested to find out the amount of support this idea has. The Mini Courts are aimed at children aged eight and under to help introduce them to the sport, with courts and nets proportionate to their size, strength and ability, to make tennis easy and fun at an earlier age. If there is enough support, I would like to convene an informal meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail and to determine how we can make this happen; the Elsenham Parish Council has indicated they are supportive of the project. If you would like to support this idea please contact me. To find out more about Mini Tennis visit <http://www.lta.org.uk/LTA-Mini-Tennis/Red/Mini-Tennis-Red/>.



Carl Johnson
Tel: 815086

Despite the very wet weather our intrepid year 6 pupils took part in the Bikeability training run by instructors from Uttlesford District Council. All the children who took part in the road safety and bicycle user programme managed to pass the final assessment and were awarded their badges and certificates in assembly. Parents and pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 were also involved in some awareness training about 'Cyberbullying'. Although communication via the internet, social networking, gaming and mobile phone is a huge source of enjoyment, the school community were reminded that as in all things, care and safety measures must be considered to prevent the misuse of these communication tools. Year 5 enjoyed a three-day residential visit to St Mark's College at Audley End. The activities were varied and the two-day drama workshop culminated in a production of Shakespeare's 'Midsummer Night's Dream'. Year 6 also kept the staff busy on their residential visit to the Isle of Wight! They visited many places on the island, including a boat trip to the Needles, a beach study at Freshwater Bay, and a day trip to Robin Hill. They enjoyed a talk from an ancient pirate, swam in the outside swimming pool and canoed on the sea. On the outward journey they also visited HMS Victory at Portsmouth and spent an informative time at the Maritime Museum.

The school will celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 11th June. The children have been invited to dress in red, white and blue, enjoy a special British lunch and celebrate with class parties/picnics (weather dependant) in the afternoon. The Parents' Association have kindly bought each pupil a commemorative key ring to mark the occasion. The Governors convened the first Parent Forum group for the school in May. This newly formed group will ensure that the parents will have a say in future strategic decisions and school development planning. Thank you to all the members of the Stansted community who supported the May Fair this year and the body of hard working parents and children who made the occasion possible.

Cathie Bonich
Head Teacher



www.mitp-bentfield.co.uk

A reminder that 30th June 2.00pm-8.00pm sees this year's Music in the Park, with an excellent line up of bands, plus bouncy castles, face painting, games, BBQ and bar. A family event not to be missed. Tickets £8 advance, £10 on the gate (children under 16 free if with an adult).

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STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Pre-Season Get Together Meal

A good time was had by all at Yeoman's on 14th April, well supported with 36 in total enjoying a lovely meal and great company. Many thanks to Yeoman's for all their hard work.

Bowling for Beginners

We were unfortunate with the weather, but were able to greet some potential new members during the following week between showers. Welcome to all those new members and we do hope you will enjoy your bowling and that the weather improves! Anyone who would like to come for a beginners session can still contact me below to arrange a time.

Matches

President v Captain Day – we all duly turned out and were so lucky with the weather. The green was opened by our President, John Hollis, followed by a very enjoyable afternoon of bowls with much camaraderie on all rinks, with the win going to the Captain's team, and a tasty buffet.

First Game of the Season – against Clavering, was, as always, a great game to start the season which we won by a narrow margin, with plenty of friendly banter on every rink.
North West Essex League Stansted B Team - this first match of the season was played at home against Saffron Walden C Team and we won by 5 points to 3 points. Well done - keep up the good start.

Daniel Robinson Cup – the first leg was played on Sunday 6th May at Elsenham, lots of friendly rivalry, lovely meal and just a few points for us to make up!!!!

Herts & Essex Senior League – first game was on Tuesday 8th May at home to Saffron Walden, a very good win for Stansted and played in glorious sunshine!

North West Essex League Stansted A Team first game of the season and **Perrin Rose Bowl Club Competition** – both cancelled due to bad weather and will be re-scheduled.

Work in and around Club House

We must sincerely thank the many hands within the Club who are giving their time freely to help with the enhancement of the Clubhouse ready to offer carpet bowls later in the season, also those who are busy working outside and around the green, preparing the benches etc ready for the opening of the green – you are all greatly appreciated. For more information about the Club, please contact me.

Doreen Scraggs
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PAUL 'CROM' CROMMIE

Friends and family of Paul Crommie turned out in their hundreds to remember the former Stansted resident at a fund-raising football match in his honour on 6th May. Paul, who grew up in Cawkell Close before moving to Scotland to pursue his acting career, had played for both sides that contested the memorial fixture - the Bishop's Stortford Brazilian All Stars and Stansted Cricket Club. A crowd of approximately 250 watched the match at the village's Cambridge Road sports ground, which finished 4-0 to the All Stars. The scoreline did not reflect what was an evenly contested game between two fully committed teams.

A post match auction and raffle - featuring prizes donated from numerous local businesses as well as the likes of Arsenal FC, Tottenham Hotspur FC, Celtic FC, Wasps RFC and Essex CCC - combined with ticket sales saw the total generated on the day reach £3,360. A commitment from Barclays to match everything raised up to £3,000 will see the final total, to be shared between Macmillan Cancer Support and the Lymphoma Research Trust, reach £6,360.

We would like to thank all the local business who have contributed towards the raffle and auction and enabling us to raise so much money and, of course, the people who turned out to show their support. Thanks must also go to Stansted Football Club for allowing us to host the day and for being so accommodating in the build up to and during the day. The event was organised by myself and Andy Faulkner: we had both been friends of Paul since secondary school. It was a terrific tribute to Paul and showed just how much he meant to so many people. Paul died, aged 32, on 15th February this year.

Matthew Cope
Tel: 07877 481640



Stansted Cricket Club

Work is progressing well on the pavilion extension, and we hope to be finished before the end of May. The first day of the league season on 5th May was almost a total washout, with only five out of 32 fixtures being played across the League. Both SCC fixtures fell victim to waterlogged grounds. The football match held on 6th May in memory of Paul Crommie was very successful and raised a considerable amount of money for charity. *A full report appears above.*

The home fixtures for June are:

Sat 2nd June 1330 HECL Div 5 2nd XI v Three Caps
Sun 3rd June 1430 Friendly Sun XI v Furneux Pelham
Sat 9th June 1330 HECL Div 1 2nd XI v Matching Green II
Sun 10th June 1430 Friendly Sun XI v Molehill Green
Sat 16th June 1330 HECL Div 1 1st XI v Matching Green I
Sat 23rd June 1330 HECL Div 5 2nd XI v Albury
Sun 24th June 1430 Friendly Sun XI v Chrishall
Sat 30th June 1330 HECL Div 1 1st XI v Epping Foresters I

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

David Hedge
Hon. Secretary/Stansted Cricket Club
Tel: 812509



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

Our last meeting of the year was the AGM, when all the Committee were re-elected, followed by a very informative and enjoyable presentation by Peter Saunders.

Stansted and the English Civil War – Part 1

Peter's presentation focused on the religious aspect of this war, and in order to understand the evidence relating to this region he took us back several generations before the Civil War to the Lollards (regarded as forerunners to the Puritans), followers of John Wycliffe who attacked worldliness and corruption of the Church, with evidence of John Ball, one of the leaders of the Peasants' Revolt in 1381 and the Vicar of Manuden in 1430, who was burned at the stake at Smithfield as a Lollard and heretic. Essex, mainly in the cloth towns of Braintree, Colchester and Saffron Walden during the reigns of Elizabeth and Kings James I and II, was reckoned to be the most Puritan county in the country, followed closely by Hertfordshire, especially Bishop's Stortford. With their strong beliefs on piety and godliness, they were zealous Protestants ferociously hostile to any Church practices that hinted of Roman Catholicism and determined to bring about a reformation. It was the Puritans who led the attack on witchcraft, with the Earl of Warwick (of Leighs Priory) a great Parliamentary commander who presided over the notorious trials of witches in Chelmsford. Puritan followers (gadders) paid lecturers on Sunday afternoons to share their convictions in local churches, infuriating local ministers whose parishioners deserted them to travel many miles (gadding about) to hear a lecturer who was to their liking. There is evidence of lecturers in Stansted in the 1630s and 1640s. Going back to the 1500s Queen Elizabeth was unsympathetic to the Puritans and in 1584 great pressure was brought to bear on the clergy to subscribe to the Book of Common Prayer with at least 43 Essex ministers being suspended for refusing to comply. In the same year a group of Puritan ministers at the Dedham conference, undertook a survey of the Essex ministry and claimed to demonstrate that fewer than one third of beneficed ministers were competent and listed 162 'painful preachers' including Mr French of Birchanger "a very insufficient and careless minister, a gamester", Mr Darloe of Ugley "a common swearer, a careless man, a riotous man and preacheth not" and John Wilkinson of Stansted Mountfitchet "a gamester."

In 1633 William Laud was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury and provoked the Puritans by insisting on practices steeped in Catholicism, using members of the Star Chamber and the high commission to inflict savage punishments on the leaders of those who didn't comply. This led to the great emigration to America throughout the 1630s; how many went from Stansted is unclear, but there is evidence to several. Another effect of Laud's persecution was to drive the Puritans towards revolution culminating in a military struggle between Charles I and Parliament, and in 1629 Charles dismissed Parliament embarking on a period of personal rule for 11 years. When Charles suffered humiliating defeat at the hands of the 'Covenanters', after trying to force the Scottish version of the Book of Common Prayer on the

Scottish Presbyterians he was forced into recalling Parliament to raise more funds. He moved his court to Oxford, leaving Parliament in London. With the House of Commons dominated by Puritans, this eventually led to his Royalists trying to recapture the Capital, which led up to the first battles of the civil war at Edgehill and Turnham Green

(Part 2 to follow next month - space permitting.)

On 3rd and 4th June we will be mounting a display on the first floor of the Windmill of early and recent Stansted celebrations. Open 1.30pm-5.30pm both days.

Stephen Leaney
Tel: 647177



**UGLEY
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Our recent meeting opened with the announcement of the death of one of our members, Mrs Gwen Saunders, a long-standing member who was a great friend to many and will be missed by us all. The speaker was the very entertaining Paul Embleton, local historian, author and collector of postcards. What an entertaining afternoon he gave us, showing just a selection of his large collection which he had converted into a slide show. He began his fascinating talk with a brief introduction to the history of the postcard. It was invented in Austria in 1869 and adopted by the British postal authorities in 1870, but publishers were only given the go-ahead to print their own postcards in 1894. Amongst Mr Embleton's amazing collection were a large number of cards produced during WW1, including beautiful silk embroidered cards, scenes from the battlefields and a large number of patriotic ones encouraging one to do one's bit for King and Country. Royalty found their way on to cards too, their images often used for advertising purposes (unthinkable today)! He brought in two examples of novelty cards: one a 'hold to light' card which depicted a cottage in a snow-bound setting and when a torch was placed behind the card the windows lit up - quite magical; the other was a kaleidoscopic butterfly!

A selection of his vast collection of local postcards brought back happy memories for some of our members. The scenes of Ugley included a nostalgic view of the school complete with pupils, the church, the Post Office, Orford House and the beautiful Ugley Chequers. Stansted scenes included interesting views of Silver Street, Cambridge Road, Mary Macarthur Home, the fountain, St John's grounds before and after the consecration of the war memorial (complete with its first wreaths), the Free Church, Sunnyside, Woodfields, Recreation Ground, Millside (with a view of the Windmill), Stoney Common, Lower Street, St Mary's Church, Stansted Hall and Stansted House. The meeting was brought to a close by the judging of a postcard competition which attracted a large number of very interesting entries. Other highlights on the horizon include our Diamond Jubilee party in June, and advice on 'Beekeeping for Beginners' in July.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

IN MEMORIAM

Irene Edith Sanders

2nd March 1929-28th March 2012

It came as a big blow in March when we lost our neighbour, Rene. She preferred to be known by this name, and certainly older generation Stansted people probably thought that was her name. Rene grew up in Cutlers Green near Thaxted, later living at The Crown in Elsenham. Her main education was at the Herts and Essex High School, which she attended after winning a scholarship. The Sanders family lived on the Recreation Ground for many years and, along with her late



husband, Irving, were involved with all the village activities. Her three children, Tim, Lesley and Louise grew up there and Rene was very fortunate that when they married they still lived locally and her grandchildren were a great joy to her. Rene, at an early age, realised she was good at selling, and worked in advertising including for the Good Housekeeping magazine. She was employed by

ATV in its early days and had a hand in getting the TV commercials on to our screens. Locally she worked for some time on the Classified, the first of the local free papers. It was here she discovered her entrepreneurial skills of buying and selling through the articles for sale. She began buying from the local auction rooms and selling from home. This grew to a point where she opened a small unit in Woodfield Terrace. She later expanded her growing business to The Stables at the side of Linden House. In the early 1980s, following a devastating fire at The Stables, the family bought an old antiquarian book shop in Takeley where the business expanded. Rene continued to make the business a success until retiring in her mid 70s.

A past president of the Women's Institute, Rene believed in supporting local organisations such as the U3A where she enjoyed the theatre trips and holidays. Rene was a regular member of the congregation at her beloved St John's and she always occupied the same seat - this seat was left vacant during her Memorial Service. Especially in her younger days Rene was a 'doer' and the motto on her fridge was 'What's stopping you?'. She made many friends in Gilbey Crescent and we shall all miss her daily telephone chats; she still had her finger on the pulse of the village. The older people of Stansted will know what I mean when I say "Rene was truly a Stansted lady". She will be greatly missed.

Derek Francis

DO YOU ENJOY READING?

Is Stansted well read? If you enjoy meeting new people and enjoy reading, why not combine the two and join Stansted's newest book club? The small group meets one evening per month. For more information please email Stanstedswellread@hotmail.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

Jenny Clark

IN MEMORIAM

Janet Poole-Adams

It is with sadness that we record the passing away of Janet Poole-Adams. Janet was the Treasurer of Neighbourhood Watch for many years and we greatly valued her services. She carried out her duties in a quiet and competent way and we will miss seeing her at our meetings. She was always cheerful and positive despite the problems with her health and we send our condolences to her husband Derek and the family.

Valerie Trundle
Chairman
Neighbourhood Watch



STANSTED 10K FUN RUN & WALK 24th June 11.00am Bentfield Green

Entries are rolling in for this year's Fun Run – a great community family event. The proceeds will go to Uttlesford Crossroads, Stansted Windmill, Stanmore Aspire (spinal injury rehabilitation), Macmillan Nurses and Water Aid.

Sponsors needed

We are very grateful to our sponsors this year: Angela Lever & Co, Barker Associates, Grenville Construction, and Stansted Chiropractic and Back Pain Clinic, and other local businesses. We would welcome more businesses to sponsor raffle prizes and bottled water for the runners. Sponsors' names appear on our publicity and on our website.

Marshals wanted

Helpers are still needed to marshal the route. It can be very pleasant spending a few hours in the lovely English countryside cheering on the runners and you don't have to run! Please contact Catherine Dean on 813579.

Helpers needed

More helpers are needed on Bentfield Green on the day, to give out runners' numbers and medals. If you would like to get involved in this very enjoyable community event, please contact me - I will be very pleased to hear from you!

Enter now and save £2!

It would be helpful if runners/walkers could register in advance, as most of our helpers will be busy on the day handing out the electronic chips and running numbers. Entry fees: adult £11 (£13 on the day), under 16 £5 (advance and on the day). You can enter on-line using a debit or credit card at no additional cost, or by post. Entry forms from www.stansted10k.org.uk or contact me.

Marion Dyer
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Email: marion@stansted10k.org.uk

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www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Rain, rain, go away ... however, it did not dampen the spirits of either the buyers or the sellers at our Nearly New Sale. With over 230 buyers at the event, our April sale was once more a resounding success. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the event run as smoothly as it did. It was a wonderful farewell sale for Jane Chate who has run the sales so successfully over the past few years and a big resounding welcome to Nerea Kennedy who has volunteered to lead the Committee into the next sale. If you would like to sell any goods in our next sale, scheduled for 21st October, please get in touch and book your place now to avoid disappointment.

To add our contribution to the Queen's Jubilee we are hosting a red, white and blue tea party at St John's Church Hall, on Friday 8th June 2.00pm-4.00pm. We are planning a traditional tea party with fun and games for the children and a party tea. It would be great to make the event a real success so please let us know if you can come along and help us celebrate the Queen's Jubilee kiddie style! Entry £3 a child or £5 family.

Our coffee mornings are an informal gathering held in a member's house, so if you fancy having a friendly chat and introducing your children to some new playmates, why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings. We would love to meet you and it is a great way to make new friends. Monday mornings is toddlers from walking till three years; Wednesday afternoons our pre-schoolers meet from three years upwards and Friday mornings is for pregnant bumps and babies up to walking age. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

Additional events being held this month:

Friday 8th June 2.00pm-4.00 pm St John's Church Hall
For all ages – Red White & Blue Party
Wednesday 20th June from 3.30pm
For Pre-schoolers – Coconuts soft play
Monday 25th June from 10.00am
For Toddlers - Tumbledowns Soft Play
Thursday 21st June from 8.00pm. For Parents or Carers –
Social Branch Meeting. Please call for details.

Anna Sedgbeer
Tel: 812257

CYRIL'S GARDENING TIPS

Set out your summer bedding plants. Plant up beds and hanging baskets for your summer display. Before planting them out, make sure you give them a good watering. Have you tried growing tomatoes in a hanging basket? Use the varieties Tumbler, Tumbling Tom or similar, three plants to a basket. Keep well watered and fed, and you could be picking tomatoes until October. If you haven't planted out your runner beans, marrows, courgettes, etc. it should be safe to do so now. Don't forget to cut off dead flowers from your roses and other flowering plants to keep more blooms coming.



Cyril Stoneham

The club welcomed back Richard Ford and heard about life 'Around the garden shows' of the UK. Prior to his retirement last September, Richard and his wife ran Park Green Nurseries in Suffolk for over 30 years. The Nursery specialised in hostas and introduced many new species, such as 'Royal Golden Jubilee', 'Sarah Kennedy', 'Gay Search' and 'Eric's Gold'. At the 2007 Hampton Court Show the Nursery introduced 'Hosta Alan Titchmarsh'; this has become a very popular plant and is now being offered by Thompson and Morgan. For several months each summer, the Park Green Caravan travelled the length and breadth of the UK; using a slide show, members were taken, front and backstage, to the larger RHS shows, county shows and plant fairs - learning about the awards won, the pitfalls encountered, celebrities met and the logistics needed to meet the demand for their plants etc. Over the years the Park Green Nursery has won 180 Gold Medals for their displays, seven of which were Chelsea Gold Medals! A lovely selection of plants was available for purchase at the end of the talk.

Our next meeting is at the Day Centre on 6th June, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, when Sandra Baker will be giving a talk and demonstration on 'The Wonderful World of Willow'. The full Club diary can be found on our website. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings and membership is available.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478122

OH TO BE THE QUEEN

Oh to be the Queen in this Jubilee year
To be cheered and photographed in designer gear
Sporting posh hats to go with every frock
Matching shoes and bag, and the odd queen-sized 'rock'

Oh to be the Queen in this Jubilee year
Travelling by train without tickets or fear
Having flunkeys to ease all stress and strain
Whilst one smiles, waves, and then does it all again

Oh to be the Queen during the Jubilee
Unveiling plaques and stones with dignity
Shaking hands everywhere one goes
Receiving gifts, cards, and maybe a lovely rose

But if I could be Queen just for a day
I wouldn't work that hard – no way!
There'd be no public duties at all for me
I'd sit on my throne with a nice cup of tea

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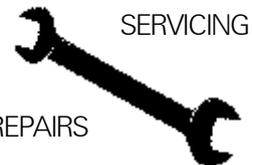
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STANSTED NETWORK NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Page 19 - New Council
Page 20 - Grants for local groups
Page 21 - Community Plan - update
Page 22 - Updated Contact details

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

NEW LOOK COUNCIL

Following the Parish Council elections on 3 May, we have seven new members out of fifteen - full details of those elected can be found on our website www.stansted.net.



The first meeting of the new Council was held on 9 May. Cllr Geoffrey Sell was elected as Chairman and Cllr Catherine Dean as Vice-Chairman. Cllr Peter Jones was elected Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Cllr Maureen Caton as Chairman of Open Spaces Committee. (2 members absent from meeting)

DIAMOND JUBILEE EVENTS

We are aware of a few events taking place over the Bank Holiday weekend of 2, 3 and 4 June (see What's On page 5 for more details):

Flower Festival at St John's Church on 2 & 3 June, with a family day/fete in the Memorial Gardens on 4 June with stalls and sideshows.

The Free Churches of Stansted throughout the years on 2, 3, & 4 June at **Stansted Free Church**. An exhibition which includes the Pilots' work over the years, along with a display of their chosen charity Mission Aviation Fellowship, plus photographs and memorabilia from the original Independent Chapel/Congregational/United Reformed and Methodist Churches, which have now joined to become Stansted Free Church.

The **Evening WI** will be holding a **cream tea** at the Day Centre on Wed 20 June from 2-4pm. This will cost £2.50 and is open to all WI members, their families and Stansted residents. There will also be a raffle.

Windmill - open on Sunday 3 and Monday 4 June. On the first floor the Local History Society will have a display of early and recent Stansted 'Celebrations'. Refreshments available.

There are also a few street parties taking place.

CRAFTON GREEN PROJECT

We are delighted to say that this project is moving forward. For clarification, it is proposed to demolish the existing library building at Crafton Green and build a new single-storey building on a larger footprint (subject to planning approval).

The new building will be home to the library which, in addition to its usual opening hours, will offer a self-service system. There will be new Council Offices with flexible meeting rooms which it is hoped will accommodate the Citizens' Advice Bureau and the Registrar. Our joint reception area will also provide a Community Information Centre where a certain amount of business relating to Uttlesford District Council can be undertaken and a front desk for the Police.

Working together with library staff, this new arrangement will mean that local services are available to you, our parishioners, for most of the average working week.

The architect has been appointed, and the topographical surveys of the site already completed. Appointment of other consultants is imminent and we are working towards preparation of a planning application. Once plans are available, we will put them on public display for all to see.

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO ORGANISATIONS - DO NOT MISS OUT

We have been notified of sources of funding which may be available to assist local organisations. The first two are available through Uttlesford District Council:

Community Project Grant Scheme - Grants available from £100 to £3,500. Closing date 14 June.

Uttlesford Jubilee Fund - Grants available from £1,000 up to £10,000. Closing date 16 July.

Essex County Council Big Society Fund - grants up to £15,000 for community capital projects. Closing date 28 August. See page 39 for further details and how to apply.

As with all grants, terms and conditions apply to these funds. For further details of the first two listed above, or to request an application form, please contact Sue Hayden, Community Development Officer at UDC on 01799 510563 or e-mail her at shayden@uttlesford.gov.uk.

WORKINGS TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY PLAN

It is now over a year since the Community Plan was completed. It is intended to monitor the achievements (and failings) in terms of the action points and to consider what changes may be required in light of changing conditions.

The Parish Council is pleased with what has been achieved as well as being disappointed in some areas with traffic and parking always proving difficult to resolve.

The following objectives have been, or are en route to being, achieved:

- *The Parish boundary has been redrawn*, with effect from April 2012, to incorporate the whole of Foresthall Park. However, the handover of responsibility from the developers may not take place in full for two to three years.
- *Plans being drawn up* to rebuild the library, incorporate Parish Council, Community Information Services, the police, CAB and the Registrar. Funding largely agreed.
- Funding is virtually in place to carry out plans to *redesign and re-equip the three major play areas* and orders have been placed for two schemes.
- *Funding for a new CCTV system* has been obtained and the order should soon be placed.
- *The fountain area has been refurbished* thus enhancing the appearance of the centre of the village.
- *The redevelopment of Mead Court* is being pursued by Uttlesford District Council after discussions with the Parish Council.
- *Highway works to improve access in and around Foresthall Park* are moving forward albeit at a pace slower than hoped. Schemes include improvements to Water Lane and footpaths along Church Road and Forest Hall Road, together with priority working on Church Road which will reduce speed.
- *Litter and dog bins* on Foresthall Park have been provided with advice on locations being received from the Residents' Association.
- *The regular emptying of litter and dog bins* and inspection of play areas on Foresthall Park is happening.
- *Grit bins and spreaders* have been purchased to enable a limited programme of snow clearance on key footpaths and to help the efforts of individual parishioners.
- The ECC is considering *plans to increase short-term parking* on Cambridge Road while ensuring no parking on the west side from Clarence Road to Croasdaile Road, or around the junction with Clarence Road.
- *The residents parking scheme* for part of Lower Street and Grove Hill was implemented and is now being reviewed in light of experience.

- *Speedwatch*, a scheme operated by volunteers, has started and should become part of the programme to reduce speeds on the main village roads.
- *Neighbourhood Watch* continues to grow its network and almost the whole village is covered.
- A *new footpath map* has been published and a new booklet of walks should be published in the near future.
- *The skatepark* has been improved following repair work and external funding has been agreed to strengthen the fencing.

A number of important issues have still be to resolved:

- *Confirmation that the green belt and open countryside will be safeguarded* and that no encouragement will be given to developers to propose major new housing schemes outside the village limits. The proposals for this parish by Uttlesford District Council are encouraging.
- *Traffic calming/speed restriction schemes* on High Lane, Chapel Hill and Walson Way coupled with more pedestrian crossings on Cambridge Road, Silver Street and Church Road have yet to be agreed.
- *Parking issues remain a concern* with the needed footpath from Cambridge Road to Crafton Green car park still to be agreed, with the refusal of UDC to agree one hour free parking, with the review of the Residents' Parking Scheme awaited and with parking around schools an issue.
- *The provision of additional open space and allotments*, particularly the opening up of Stansted Park, is still at early stages of discussion.
- *Street lighting raises a number of unresolved issues* ownership of lights, night lighting, together with the need to review the effectiveness of the existing network and its environmental impact (power usage and light pollution).

CONTACTING THE POLICE

There are three ways to contact the police by telephone:

- 999** - If you need urgent assistance, this is the number to call.
- 101** - To report incidents or information, which are not urgent, please dial this number.
- 07989 174 801** - This is the new mobile number on which to contact your neighbourhood police. Leave a message if necessary. Please make a note.

PLEASE LOCK YOUR CARS

A number of vehicle thefts were reported in February and March where thieves targeted cars and vans that had been left unlocked. The police decided to conduct a check in Stansted Mountfitchet to see how many people leave their vehicles unlocked. Worryingly, **40 out of the 222 vehicles checked were left insecure or with property clearly visible within.**

Criminals will always look for the easiest option so please keep your vehicles locked and don't leave items on display. Please share this message with your neighbours, friends and relatives to prevent them from becoming victims of this crime.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS TAXIS

We have just been notified by Uttlesford District Council that the following taxi firms have some vehicles which cater for wheelchair users. These are:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
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| Acme Transport, Takeley | 07971 432376 |
| NCS, Widdington | 01799 542818 |
| 24 x 7 Elsenham and Stansted Airport | 01279 816126 and 01279 661128 |
| E-Cabs, Great Dunmow | 01371 873323 |

DATES FOR MEETINGS

13 June Open Spaces
27 June Full Council

STANSTED IN BLOOM

The date for judging the business displays within Stansted will be Saturday 14 July, beginning at 10am. Prizes for first, second and third will be awarded in the afternoon at the premises of the winning display, where we hope to take photographs for The Link.

The recommended colour scheme is red, white, blue and gold and it would be a bonus to the look of the village if residents could follow this scheme in their private garden displays during the summer.

Contacts: Cllr Valerie Trundle - 813433 and Mrs Joy Thomas - 813871.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL has produced a new comprehensive bus timetable book. Reference copies are held in the library and Parish Council offices but if you want to buy a copy it costs £13.50 from Here to There Publishing Ltd - tel: 01763 252868.

PARISH CEMETERY

Regular visitors will be aware that there is a metal compost container at the Cemetery. Please note that this is only for green waste and should be left in the position that it is placed.

Any plastic wreaths, cellophane etc etc should be left in the litter bin by the gate. If the bin is full, please leave your rubbish on the ground next to it. Thank you.

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford
Admin Assistant - Anne Court
E-mail: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214
www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police

PC Tom Bastendorff Tel: 01279 812211
Non-emergency No. 101 OR 0300 333 4444
PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07989 174801

Neighbourhood Watch

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots Age 5 -18	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Purseglove (Administrator) Tel: 01279 814242 Mobile: 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cubs Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts Age 10½ -14	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk www.skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144 www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085 www.mencapgrovecottage.org	U3A	Cherry Chair Tel: 817140
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Lunch Club	Alastair Richardson Tel: 07850 295109 Email: amg.richardson@gmail.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466 923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 www.musicatstansted.com		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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Stansted Tennis Club



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Tournament dates for your diary:

Sunday 10th June 12.45pm - Clower Boys' Doubles
Sunday 24th June 9.30am for 10.00am - Pearce Adult

Hospital Cup Tournament

The draws for this competition are now up on the Club noticeboard. Players are reminded to arrange and play their matches as soon as possible.

Recent tournament results

The rearranged President's Cup finally took place on Sunday 22nd April. Twelve players took part in the round robin stage, which was followed by the knock-out stage. In a gripping final, John Nichol and Fiona Pye saved 5 match points to come back and eventually win 6-5 against Joe Hollis and Sue Armorgie. Many thanks to Sarah Hollis for providing a delicious ploughman's lunch, which was enjoyed by players and spectators.



Farewell to Richard Mott and Eddie Campbell

The Cock in Stansted was the venue for members of the Club to say their farewells over a drink and meal to Richard Mott and Eddie Campbell, who have been stalwart members of the club since the 1970s. They have now moved down to Sidmouth in Devon where we hope they will be very happy.

Coaching

For information about coaching please contact Chris Hollis on 319155 or Martyn Taplin (Monday night adults) on 816386. Chris currently has vacancies for the following groups: 11-15 year old girls (Mondays), 11-15 year old boys (Tuesdays) and 14-17 year old girls (Fridays).

Used tennis balls

£1 per tube of four from Jan Hollis on 812073.

Club Playing Sessions

Members are encouraged to attend these open sessions:
Wednesday from 9.00am and 6.00pm
Friday from 9.30am. Sunday from 10.00am

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574, Antony Dynamou (Membership Secretary) 813121.

Chris Hollis



SUMMER PROM JUBILEE!

St John's Church 7.30pm Saturday 23rd June

Following the success of 'MazeMusic' in March, Saffron Walden Choral Society invites you to join them for their Summer Prom entitled *Jubilee!* In celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the choir performs a rousing programme of royal music, including Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, Handel's *Coronation Anthems: Zadok the Priest* and *The King Shall Rejoice*, along with Walton's *Coronation Te Deum* and other proms, favourites. Choral classics such as Parry's *I was glad* and *Jerusalem* begin the Prom-style finale. There will be plenty of opportunity to join in the choruses and wave a Union Jack. Janet Wheeler conducts, with Richard Carr on organ and keyboard. Internationally acclaimed soprano Ann-Helen Moen is joined by a wonderful team of young professional soloists - Carris Jones (mezzo), Benedict Hymas (tenor) and Philip Tebb (bass). Tickets £10 (accompanied under 18s £1) from www.wegotickets.com, St John's Church Office 815243, Stansted Carpets 812019, Sarah Ludlow-Elston 814376, or at the door. The concert is also taking place at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden on Saturday 12th June at 7.30pm. Tickets: £15 (concessions £12, accompanied under 18s £1) from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, SWCS Ticket Secretary, Linda Pollard, on 01799 530759, www.wegotickets.com and at the door.

Liz Jennings
SWCS Press Officer
Tel: 07720 567922

Email: pressofficer@swchoral.org.uk

ELSENHAM VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 16th June 1.00pm-4.30pm

Come along to Elsenham Playing Field and join us for our Village Fete. Entrance costs just 50p per person (accompanied children free). There will be arena events throughout the afternoon, including Mr. Poulson's marvelous Punch and Judy Show and lots more to keep everyone happy. As always, proceeds from our village fete will be put towards Elsenham Community Association funds, helping to improve the facilities at the Memorial Hall on the Playing Field.

Sue Johnson
Tel: 812704

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 16th June

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Hello everyone; it is business as usual at Spangles. Spurgeons have been our new employer for two months now and we are very positive about the small changes that have been made and look forward to a successful future with them. I hope that the transition has been seamless for all of our customers.

The Jubilee Celebrations Our raised beds are being developed, and despite the cold rainy days we are pleased that the funding, secured some months ago from Veolia, is being put to good use. We hope that the children will be able to plant seeds and bedding plants very soon and we shall be taking a royal theme with the flowers to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee Year. We also hope to be displaying a picture of the Queen that is to be created by Stansted Mountfitchet Maths and Computing College as part of their community day on 19th June. Pop in and have a look at the picture after this date.

Half-term Don't forget that apart from the bank holiday days we shall be open on the three remaining days of half-term with our usual timetable. Stay and Play is on Thursday afternoons from 1.30pm-3.00pm if you would like to bring the children along.

Just4Dads (or granddads, stepdads, partners and boyfriends) with their under 5s of course, will be running again on 9th June from 10.00am-11.30am. This is a relaxed, men only, group with lots of toys and equipment for the children. The sausage sandwiches go down well too! The 9th is the first day of fathers' story week so we will organise activities around familiar children's stories for this session. Come and meet other like-minded dads in a relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Fathers' story week Did you know that children's attainment in school is significantly related to the amount of positive communication they receive at home? It's never too early to start; babies can recognise the soothing voice of familiar people as soon as they are born. Reading to your child is a good way of bonding and developing a trusting, respectful relationship from a very early age. Stories can be from books, but you can also make them up, sing them, and use puppets and voices. Come and see what a story kebab is, or a story sack - both of which will capture your and your child's imagination. They can last and grow forever alongside your child. We will be demonstrating story sacks on Saturday 9th at the Just4Dads group.

Volunteers In the past readers of 'The Link' have always responded very generously to our requests for volunteers and we are very grateful for the help they provide. We would like to appeal to some of the male readers and ask if any of you can spare a couple of hours on the 2nd Saturday of the month to help out at the Just4Dads group. We will conduct a CRB check and provide any necessary 'training', but all you really need is some enthusiasm and an outgoing personality. Please call or drop in and talk to myself or Lesley. For more information please call or have a look at our website.

Mandy Fitchett
Tel: 812348

Norma Symonds was the first female member of Stansted Stort Valley Rotary, and she came along to tell us a little of their work. They sent her, being a WI member herself, to face a WI audience as they still remember what happened to Tony Blair at Wembley! She told how the Rotary has been in existence for 105 years and has 1.2 million members all over the world. The Bishop's Stortford Branch was formed 60 years ago and has a current membership of about 50. They raise money locally through a big Charity Golf Day and Christmas collections, with the sleigh, which makes its perilous journey around Stansted whatever the weather. She was lucky enough to drive it last December. With this money they support parcels for the elderly and needy, Stortford Kickstart, Stroke Awareness, as well as national causes such as Great Ormond Street Hospital, and international causes including Shelter Boxes, which deliver emergency shelter and warmth to people made homeless by disaster worldwide. Two people were lucky in our annual draw for a Bursary towards the cost of a Course at Denman College. Denman has now opened its doors to non-WI members and males for courses, or as a base to explore the surrounding area on a bed and breakfast basis. It is very near to Oxford and Abingdon as well as the Thames and is an ideal short break destination.

The Spring Group Meeting at Berden was excellent. Eliza McClelland, an actress as well as a gifted needlewoman, performed her talk 'To Bead or not Bead' in a most dramatic way and had us thoroughly entertained with stories of all the items she has crafted, notably an enormous patchwork bedspread, using materials from many theatrical costumes. We excelled ourselves by winning the competition for a beaded item, a bag entered by Barbara Morrison, and gaining the silver cup, last won by Stansted in 2001. Brenda Ryan won the £20 prize for a spot the pound competition and some Stansted members came first in the Quiz based on Royalty. Please come and join us between 2.00pm and 4.00pm on Wednesday 20th June at the Day Centre, for a Jubilee Cream Tea with homemade scones and jam; or before that our meeting at 7.45pm on Thursday 14th June in St John's Church Hall - 'The Good Life' with Peter Webb.



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Nature Notes

It has been an amazing spring for primroses and cowslips. Great slumps of cowslips were flowering along our rural roads, such as the road going through Elsenham to Thaxted and the narrow winding road linking Manuden with Furneux Pelham. During May the oxlips (from the same primula family) were flourishing in local ancient woodlands such as Turner's Spring at Burton End and West Wood, further afield just beyond Thaxted. Both these woods are owned by the Essex Wildlife Trust. The oxlip is very similar to a cowslip, but with slightly larger and paler flowers. It is always evidence of ancient woodland and is mainly confined to East Anglia.

May and June are the best months to see wild orchids. There are about 50 species of these exotic looking plants in



Britain. The earliest ones to appear are early purple orchids, often growing in coppiced woods among the bluebells and dogs mercury. Their flowers are bright red-purple on spikes up to 40cms high and the glossy leaves at the base are covered with dark purplish spots. The flowers are vanilla scented but after fertilization this changes to an unpleasant cat-like smell. The greater butterfly orchid is also scented. It is less frequently seen but can be found in West

Wood where it likes the chalky soil. This is a very attractive plant with greenish-white flowers which are conspicuous at night. Their scent attracts night-flying insects, especially moths, which pollinate them. Common spotted orchids flower in many places around Stansted, in grassy areas and at woodland edges. These orchids, like the early purple, also have spotted leaves, but their flowers are generally pale pink with darker streaks. They flower later than the early purple orchids, and you should be able to see them this month in the open grassy area within the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve .

Rosina Kirkwood

SKYWATCH

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



Have you ever thought of doing a bit of astronomy yourself, just by looking upwards and around? You can, you know! I'm guessing that you have at least seen the Moon with its phases but have you looked around to see where the Sun is? For it is the Sun's light that shines on any half of the Moon at any time, though with the exception of the occasional eclipse of the Moon. So when you observe a narrow phase, try to look for the location of the Sun, which may be below the local horizon but can be detected by the brightest bit of sky above the horizon. This enables you to see why the phase is that shape and, also, why it is located where it is. Try to keep some memory of the phase and do it again the following evening and you will notice the difference both of the size of the phase and its position relative to the day before; a small thing to do but something that has been there for billions of years and will continue for further billions of years.

There are occasions when you can see the obvious phase but also a faint outline of a Full Moon. But how? It took early astronomers to work this out and they regarded it to be either a warning or a good omen from the gods. However, it is, of course, a natural event, when the Sun has to be in the right place and the atmosphere is particularly quiet and particularly clear which allows the Earth itself to act as a mirror and reflect sunlight up in to the ether and faintly illuminate the whole Moon. Of course, the days are heading to their longest, but more astronomical knowledge seems to be published every week and we now know that a new telescope is being built that will be sent in to orbit which will out do the famous Hubble Telescope, launched in the '90s and still going very strong, more than ten times, though I don't know how they know that. As I have mentioned before, I am sometimes waylaid as I amble around Stansted because someone has a question about the Universe and I am always happy to oblige. So don't be shy, but the answer might take longer than you think and may even need a good pint or two.

Martin West



Foresthall Park
Residents' Association

www.foresthallparkresidents.org

Nine people were elected from the Stansted South ward to the Parish Council on 3rd May. I would like to congratulate both the newly elected and re-elected. I look forward to working with them and I hope that we do not lose momentum on the various projects that are in the pipeline. I noted the voter turnout for the Stansted South ward was 27.45% (the North ward turnout was 43.69%). It would be good to see more people vote in future elections and would strengthen the mandate of those elected.

I have heard that there was another accident at the Church Road/Walson Way junction. In the last year there have been at least four accidents that I am aware of around there. Speedwatch is a start but further measures will probably be required to curb speeding/improve safety along that stretch of road. Last month, I mentioned that residents living close to the school should have been sent details of the proposed parking restrictions that will come into effect by the time the school opens. Essex County Council have changed the scheme slightly in response to the feedback they received (the 'no waiting at any time' restrictions have been removed from the Shaw Close/Hampton Road and Miller Close/Hampton Road junctions). Whether you agree with the proposals or not I think it is encouraging to see ECC engaging with the community and being responsive to the feedback from those residents. The finalised proposals will be advertised shortly and feedback sought from the wider community.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee is fast approaching. If there are any street parties around Foresthall Park then I thought it would be good to add some photos of them to our website to record the event. Please forward any photos you are happy for us to put on the website and we'll put up a selection in due course.

Stephen Berry
Chairman

Tel: 647652

Email: s.berry@mac.com

ST MARY'S SCHOOL FUN DAY



The St Mary's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association are hosting a Fun Day & Barn Dance on Saturday 23rd June from 3.00pm-8.00pm. This event is to give everyone the opportunity to come and say goodbye to St Mary's at its existing site on St John's Road, before we move to bigger premises later this year. We hope to give the current school a fantastic send off and welcome all of you to help us make it an occasion to remember. The afternoon will be opened by a local celebrity and will include bouncy castles, a children's entertainer, face painting, tattoos, a coconut shy plus lots more fun and exciting games. A BBQ and licensed bar will be running all afternoon, and popcorn, candy floss and ice creams will also be available. Of course, families are more than welcome to bring a picnic and rug if they wish and hopefully make the most of our school field. The Barn Dance, with live band and caller, will play from 5.00pm-8.00pm. No previous dance experience is needed - we're encouraging anyone and everyone to join in! The cost is £6.50 (aged 16 and over), which includes your first drink. One child under the age of 16 can enter free per paying adult. Entrance for any additional children is priced at 50p. Funds raised from the afternoon will go towards purchasing outside play equipment for the new school. Unfortunately, we can't take our current equipment with us so we need to raise some funds to help the school purchase some new items! Further information can be found on the school website: www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org or email the PTFA at stmarysstanstedptfa@hotmail.co.uk.

Nicola Ward
PTFA Chair
Tel: 810892 or 07780 603743
Email: n_ward@hotmail.co.uk



We are delighted to announce our first ever Family Fun Day, from 11.00am-3.00pm on Sunday 27th May at the Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College. Rainbow Pre-School is on a success roll. Well done to James Ogden (Younger Group) who won a huge Easter Egg and £100 for Rainbow Pre-School in the Intercounty 'Guess how many Easter Eggs in the Window' Competition. Let's hope our winning streak continues into 2012. If there are any competitions involving schools/pre-schools, please think of us, as we are a Charity-run Pre-School. The first half of the summer term we will be focusing on 'Growth'. We will be buying seeds and growing vegetables in our garden area, and focusing on the stories of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'The Enormous Turnip', 'Danny's Ducks' and 'Five Little Ducks'. We are in the process of arranging for the older children to visit Saffron Walden by bus to look at the life cycle of ducks. Along with all the children looking at other life cycles, in particular their own growth. We are also planning on celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by holding a party in

the outdoor car park. This will be a special session from 11.30am-2.00pm for all of our children, both older and younger groups.

We are currently seeking members to join our Parent Committee. If you or you know of anyone who would like to join the Committee, please contact me - new members will be warmly welcomed. Places for September 2013 and 2014 are filling up fast. If you have a child who would like to attend Rainbow Pre-School please put his or her name down as soon as possible (even if they are only a few months old!). We welcome visits to preschool - please see our website at www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk for more details.

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
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PERFECT PACKING

With the holiday season fast approaching I thought it appropriate that my latest article covered what to pack for your trips away, so you don't end up like most women I know who return from holiday with a suitcase full of clothes they haven't worn! With airlines today charging more and more for checked luggage (especially if you go over your luggage allowance), learning to pack light is the order of the day.

Packing Rules

- Pack as few clothes as possible
- Wear your heavier shoes/boots/coat
- Decant your toiletries into travel-sized plastic bottles
- Minimize your make-up bag - you don't need 10 lipsticks and eye-shadows
- Wear your valuable jewellery and keep the costume jewellery light
- One perfume only
- Ensure your travelling handbag is large enough to carry your documents and essentials, and put a pouch inside it that will double up as your evening bag

Your Travelling Wardrobe

List out every day of your trip, and write down what you might be doing (lunch, sightseeing, relaxing, etc). For each of these, make a note of what you are likely to wear. This will demonstrate that indeed you can wear the same pair of trousers twice, and therefore how little you need to pack. Following your list, lay all the clothes out on the bed, and see how they co-ordinate with each other. There is no point taking the little red sparkly top 'just in case' if you do not pack something to go with it. Keep the colours you take to a minimum. Your trousers and jacket should be in neutral shades, which will work with everything else. If you have forgotten something, have fun and buy it locally! You need to leave some space in your suitcase for anything else you may want to bring back. Bon Voyage!



Elizabeth Willetts
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CHANGING TIMES

Having spent many years in the village and being of advanced years of age, I have many memories of yesteryear. For this article I thought I'd concentrate on the area where I was born, namely Chapel Hill, and the changes over the years. There were some great shops then, most of which no longer exist. Opposite where I lived there used to be Ecclestons the chemists (now the carpet shop) and I recall the big bottles of coloured water in the window. Down the hill was Eric Poole's newsagent and tobacconists. (All these years later it is still a similar shop.) Eric was a great character and a very genial man. He used to call me Dicky Tarpot and would regale us with some wonderful stories. One was about a cat that had been run over outside the butcher's shop.



He claimed that Len Boothby, the butcher, was out like a shot and that the cat was in the sausage machine before you could say Jack Robinson!

There was Mumfords next door selling a varied selection of foods and other goods. Across the road was Matthews cycle shop where we lads would often visit Dennis as he worked at the back repairing cycles. Further down was Ernie Wenn the hairdresser who was very good at 'short, back and sides'. Men used to come in and mutter "a packet of ...". I used to wonder what they were talking about; such is the innocence of youth! On the corner was Miss Stacey's who had a wonderful machine with a large rotating disc, which played a tune when you put a penny in. Her penny packets of broken crisps were very popular with us children.

Further up the hill was the Barley Mow public house run by Miss Sloane and her brother Duggie. I used to run errands for Miss Sloane on a Saturday morning, one of which was to carry the pub takings in a shopping bag to Barclays Bank. I



can't imagine that happening now! Duggie was a real character who had both his legs amputated and I vividly remember him showing me his 'new legs'. The image stays with me today! He had a fine voice and used to sing at the top of his voice when taking in beer deliveries. His dulcet tones could be heard from the school playing fields overlooking Chapel Hill. Mr Venables was the last landlord, when the pub became the first venue for the Hatfield Forest Scout Fellowship.

Further up was the Central Hall, which was the hub of entertainment in the village. We had annual shows, old tyme music halls, church shows and gang shows etc. There are many great stories of happenings at the Hall. The primary school had a class in a room at the back of the hall with Miss Player (the late Marjory Cowan), a lovely lady, as the teacher. At one time a court was held at the Central Hall once a month where the maximum penalty was six months inside. It seems there was one magistrate who often gave custodial sentences. If he cleared his throat twice before he spoke that was a bad sign and you knew what was coming! The Central Hall later became Rocky's Nightclub, and is now The Old Courthouse.

At the top of the hill is the village institution, the fountain, which featured on the front cover of 'The Link' for some time a few years back. Local elders used to sit on the seat there watching the world go by. They were often kept entertained by the local constabulary doing point duty - a sight that has not been witnessed for many years. I can recall all the traffic on the main road being halted just to let out a lone cyclist from Chapel Hill.



I have concentrated on the one area, but there are many other changes in Stanstead. Older residents will remember the Army camp at Hargrave Park. I recall the Americans being there, as would a lot of local girls, I'll be bound! There used to be a large sign near the camp saying 'Site for Super Cinema' which never materialised! Stanstead was a good place to grow up in. I remember coming home when I was doing my National Service (that dates me!) and thinking there were far worse places to live. The carnival was the big event in the village for many years. I can recall one very attractive girl who was made carnival queen until it was discovered that she had done some topless posing. She was promptly deposed by the carnival committee, the story ending up in the News of the World! How times have changed.

Dick Pollard

Photos courtesy of Peter Brown

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Slowdown in cheap flights gives boost to British economy

New figures published by the Office of National Statistics show that the British are taking almost 20 per cent fewer overseas holidays compared to three years ago, whilst the number of foreign tourists visiting the UK is virtually unchanged. This means a major boost for the UK Balance of Payments and shows that the Government's policy of increasing Air Passenger Duty (APD) is actually benefiting the UK economy, contrary to the claims made by the UK's major airlines. The latest statistics show a decrease in overseas leisure trips by UK residents from 60 million to 49 million between 2008 and 2011 leading to a reduction in the UK's tourism trade deficit from £20 billion to £13 billion. Inbound tourist numbers fell by just 300,000 over the same period. Stansted, once the UK Mecca for cheap leisure flights, has seen passenger numbers fall by more than a quarter since its 2007 peak and last year it handled fewer passengers than in 2003. The figures are a powerful endorsement of the argument long put forward by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) that the boom in cheap leisure flights and the generous tax breaks given to the aviation industry actually harm the UK economy and damage traditional tourist destinations in the UK such as the Cotswolds, Norfolk Broads and Lake District.

Carol Barbone
Campaign Director
Tel: 0777 552 3091

POT HOLES

In deference to the damage imposed by two hard winters and economic stringency, 'The Link' Pothole Contest has been in abeyance for some time. However, even clemency has its limits and a recent review shows that the dreaded Pothole Maker is still active. Stoney Common, the past champion, maintains its pole position but by a narrower margin. It still calls for utmost caution by travellers on wet, moonless nights. Challenges are now coming from Mount Drive and the Maitland Road extension which are demonstrating clear potential, particularly towards the kerbs. On the western outskirts, Bentfield Green, Road, and Causeway hold interest for the connoisseur. Here the Pothole Maker is at his craftiest by spreading his efforts over a wide area, thus encouraging complacency. Continuing wet weather could propel these roads into prominence.

The B1383 also needs vigilance. Until recently there was a small but malevolent crater outside the Bell Public House which must have been a topic of conversation in all the transport cafes between Newmarket and Harlow. Our County Council has leapt on this one, but there are others at the junction with Blythwood Gardens and points north which are likely to be hammered into our consciousness by the inexorable passage of laden artics. Though not a pothole, the state of the footway near Linden House has over years attained comparability with a high mountain path. Efforts to avoid it have caused it to become wider and still more hazardous. Another feature for the dedicated Highway Watcher is the insidious descent of inspection covers below surrounding road levels. Perhaps this is a cunning way of reducing speeds and jerking drivers into wakefulness. During the days before publication there may be hasty repairs, but equally likely is the emergence of new or previously undiscovered voids. Driver be aware!

Derek Honour

We have had a busy few weeks involving lots of Essex Wing activities. Despite the bad weather, we have managed to have a whole weekend in tents at Carver Barracks for the Falklands competition. About 200 cadets and 60 staff camped on the airfield for the annual field competition weekend which tests all different kind of skills from physical abilities to intellectual and accuracy. Our teams were 14th and 15th out of 32 teams; however with a very young team we are setting ourselves up nicely for an older, more experienced team for next year!



The annual inter-squadron athletics competition was held at Melbourn sports stadium in Chelmsford one dreary Sunday, but luckily the cadets brightened the day up. Well done to those who took part; our squadron was 3rd overall, while winning the youngest male and female categories. And we are proud that four of our cadets have been asked to participate in the next round and represent Essex Wing.



We held a Squadron dining out night at Henham Village Hall for our Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Chinnery, who is sadly leaving us this month. She will be very much missed by the Squadron and our thanks go to her for the last four years' service she put into commanding our squadron. Looking to the future, our new Commanding Officer is Flying Officer Gemma Martin and we welcome her to her new post!

If you are aged between 13 and 16 and interested in joining us, contact us for more information: telephone 681559 Mondays and Fridays 7.15pm-9.30pm (24 hour Answerphone) or email 494@aircadets.org.

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New Website Launched

Our new Club's website is now available and we would love you to visit it and tell us what you think - you may even have some tips for how we could improve. We are trying to provide a comprehensive description of our aims and activities including the programme of future events. Avid readers of this publication should not panic however as we don't intend the website to supersede our contributions to the Stansted 'Link' ... yet!

Last month was very representative of our busy schedule. We welcomed two new members from very different backgrounds: a Parisienne airline pilot, and a high profile mayor (no, not Boris) who will certainly present varied perspective to our deliberations! We continued the distribution of funds to good causes including the excellent local youth choir Cantate which our President, David Scott, said impresses not just for the excellence of its performances but also for the contribution to community life and its open, inclusive admission policy. We were visited by Stuart Bloom, Chairman of NHS Hertfordshire, for a lively encounter where he outlined the recent changes in the NHS and those yet to come. We also had Paul Winspear, editor of newspapers in the Iliffe News & Media Group, who fascinatingly drew out ordinary human stories against the background of major celebrations and tragedies both national and local using pages from the Observer over the past 150 years. Amazingly, only the day before Paul had completed the London Marathon, raising £4,000 for Isabel Hospice.



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

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ST CLARE HOSPICE

Have you registered for the Midnight Walk?

Organisers of the St Clare Hospice Midnight Walk are well over halfway to their target of attracting 1,300 walkers this year. The annual fundraising event is being held in Harlow on Saturday 16th June, with walkers setting off from the Water Gardens car park at 10.30pm. Registration costs £15 per person. There will be on-stage entertainment and goodie bags for the walkers. To register online or to download an entry form visit www.stclarehospice.org.uk/midnight. For more information, ring the Hospice's fundraising team on 773750 or email: fund@stclarehospice.org.uk.

Saturday 16th June 7.30pm Cottedred Village Hall

A charity gig featuring acoustic/folk singer songwriter Edwina Hayes will be raising money for St Clare Hospice. The event is being organised by the Hospice's social worker Alison Campaniello. Edwina's songs, stage presence and 'voice of an angel' have won her a reputation as a true natural talent of gentle folk-Americana. She has opened numerous shows for Jools Holland and Van Morrison and the title track of her album 'Pour Me a Drink' was covered by Nanci Griffith. Tickets, priced £10 (concessions £8 for under 16s and over 65s), are available from Alison on 07773 504806 or by emailing joeytickle02@yahoo.co.uk.

Marathon runners raise £22,000 for Hospice

Tracy Stratford, events fundraiser at St Clare Hospice, expressed her heartfelt thanks to the 20 runners who took part in the London Marathon and raised £22,000 for St Clare's. This amount of money will pay for six patients' care for a week in our In-patient Unit, which is fantastic.

Jumble sale yet another success

A jumble sale held by the Stansted Friends of St Clare Hospice at Clavering Village Hall raised £814.14. The bi-annual event featured the sale of clothes, bric-a-brac and furniture that had been donated by many Stansted residents. Clavering resident Marina Lawrence had held the sale for 14 years before handing over the reins to Caroline Bore in 2010 who was amazed at the queues of people hoping to pick up a bargain or two before the sale. A joint volunteer force from both Stansted and Clavering sorted, laid out and cleared up afterwards. Caroline said: "Huge thanks to all those who contributed and to the very kind and generous donation of a Clavering man which enabled the Friends Group to raise over £2,500. The Hospice was most appreciative of all the hard work that was put into making the event successful."

David Jackman

A & M COLLINS ROOFING

This is just to make readers aware that A & M Collins Roofing, as advertised on the inside back cover of 'The Link' is no longer trading. As the covers are printed in advance, the advertisement will continue to appear for the June and July editions.

Editor



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CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs Sanders, PE co-ordinator, on behalf of Rickling Primary School, nominated Sarah Miles from Stansted for Uttlesford's Sporting Heroes earlier this year. Nominated for her voluntary work at the school for the past seven years coaching the successful football team and organising the hockey club, Sarah coaches in the evenings and at weekends with many local children participating. All this is alongside caring for her own three young children, pursuing her career in teaching and working at Bentfield Primary School. Sarah is deservedly part of the Sporting Heroes Exhibition at Saffron Walden Museum. Well done Sarah, from your enjoyment of all sports to encouraging children to have fun and enjoy as many sports as possible; you are an inspiration! To celebrate this event, Sarah and her family were invited to the opening of the exhibition in April for posh tea and cakes. The exhibition runs until 1st July.

Yvonne Ayres



HATFIELD FOREST SNIPPETS

You may have heard of '50 things to do before you are 11¾'. This is a brilliant set of activities and adventures you can do at National Trust properties including Hatfield Forest. Number 6 is our favourite one: Run around in the RAIN. When you come to the Forest collect the scrapbook from the shop and start collecting the stickers. You can also register online and join in there www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50things.

Bike Hire Scheme - Cycling is a popular hobby for both adults and children and brings many health benefits, and it is hoped that this new venture will encourage visitors to explore a wider area of the Forest and the adjoining Fitch Way. The Forest offers young children a very safe environment to practise their cycling skills and increase their confidence. There will be a number of adults' and children's bikes to hire, plus tag-alongs and buggies. For more information see: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest. If you would like to pre-book bikes please call 07825 761020.

New Boardwalk - A culmination of a two-year project in conjunction with St Elizabeth's College has resulted in the development of a sensory trail with beautiful interpretation. The new boardwalk through Elgin Copse and 800 sq meters of grass reinforcement is grant funded by BIFFA at a total of £49,500. St Elizabeth's College have also been busy baking cakes and biscuits for our visitors and designing recipe cards which will be available when the new discovery room opens.

Keep bringing us cushions and blankets for our midsummer picnic on Friday 22nd June. We would also like your old paint for our mural in the education yard; if you have any to spare please leave it in the blue box by the shop.

Hannah Morrice
Tel: 870678

Visitor Experience Team's Day Trip - Thirteen of us enjoyed our visit to the Trust's Flatford Mill, arranged by Hannah, on 30th April. How fortunate that the date that suited the majority of the team turned out to be the only sunny day in April! Flatford is an area of beautiful countryside in its own right, but what makes it extra special is that this is where John Constable painted some of his best and most popular pictures. We were shown round by walks' volunteer, Beverley, who used reproductions to show where pictures such as *The Haywain* and *The White Horse* were set. It was interesting to see how much artistic licence Constable used. She outlined his development as a painter, telling us how the Royal Academy frowned on his early works, which they considered too industrial. She said it would be like an artist today painting Eddie Stobart lorries on a motorway! Later we went on self-guided walks, unfortunately curtailed due to flooding. Drama was provided by the ducks who moved more quickly in the swollen River Stour than in the air, and one mother really struggled to get her four ducklings across the river. Eventually, to our great relief, she was successful! Ray Addley concluded our visit by sharing his deep knowledge of the Houblon family and their influence on the Forest. Just as Constable provides a human story at Flatford, so do the Houblons at the Forest.

David Simmonds



SAFFRON WALDEN ARTS FESTIVAL 7th-11th June

Come along and enjoy a summertime extravaganza on the Common and other venues in Saffron Walden, featuring professional and amateur performers and groups from Saffron Walden and around the area. Look out for the brochure which is available from the Tourist Information Centre and other retail outlets. Full details can be found on the Festival website: www.saffronwaldenartstrust.co.uk/Festival2012. The festival is hosted by the Saffron Walden Arts Trust, a registered charity.

Ulrike Balsler
Secretary, Saffron Walden Arts Trust
Tel: 01799 540132

FLY PARKING

A resident raised the problem of fly parking in Foresthall Park with the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee. Their response was: "The airport makes £20,000 available each year to tackle instances of fly parking, as part of our planning obligations. This money contributes towards the relevant council's costs of enforcing instances of unauthorised airport-related car parks, unauthorised car parking and/or unauthorised parking in laybys, or grass or roadside verges within five miles of the Airport Boundary. All requests for action are brought to the Highway Working Group of the airport's Transport Forum. The Group reviews fly parking reports at every meeting and, where relevant, agree funds to be spent. Members of the group are ECC, HCC, East Herts, UDC and the Highways Agency. As well as contacting their council's highways department, there is also a hotline 0800 731 2385 for residents to call to report incidents of fly parking. It is also helpful to provide information proving it is airport related, if that is possible, and not for instance, commuter parking."

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Applied Learning and Careers

Year 10 pupils have been lucky enough to be given the opportunity to take part in a careers and post 16 day at Cambridge Regional College on 14th June. As part of an event called *In Front of the Wave Day*, Year 10 students will be able to experience various different subject workshops, from Hair and Beauty, Uniformed Services and Sport, to Business and Management and Media Studies. Each workshop will be designed to give all pupils a look at what the subject would be like and what career choices will be open to them once they leave education. This day will not only give the pupils an insight into what College life is like but also a chance to work with specialised subject staff and have a real hands-on experience.

MMCC Pupils 'Blast Off' to the Big Bang

On 16th March, 11 Year 7 students from the College attended the Big Bang Fair at the NEC Birmingham. As guests of the UKspace Agency, who support the inter national educational challenge Mission X, they were able to take part in a variety of different science activities and even had a chance to take part in an agility course with special headgear that simulated the disorientation astronauts would feel in space. Highlights



of the day for the students included welding with chocolate, Classroom Casualty, building jet engines and jumping on custard! The mechanical Air Penguins were amazing and everybody wanted to smuggle them home! The students finished the day by viewing the 'We are Astronomers' show and meeting staff from the UKspace Agency and King's College London. The students involved were fantastic ambassadors for both Mission X and the school.

Victoria Owen
Student and Community Administrator



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL Big Society Fund



Essex County Council has opened its Big Society Fund to applications from the local voluntary and community sector, including town and parish councils. This is the second year that the Council is offering the fund. Earlier this month, the Council awarded grants totaling nearly £700,000 to 93 groups who applied last year. The funding will support the renovation of a skate park, children's play equipment, extending a scout hut, refurbishing a community centre, building a new village hall and a cricket pavilion and supplying water to allotments. This year, groups and organisations can apply to either of the following:

Community Capital strand which provides grants of up to £15,000 per project for capital funding only. A wide range of projects can be funded, such as community, social and recreational facilities, village halls, church halls, community shops, community transport initiatives, buying land, play-ground equipment, environmental works and related feasibility, design and planning work. Expressions of Interest for the Community Capital Fund are due by 28th August with decisions in November.

Community Response strand which provides grants of up to £10,000 per project. The projects covered by the funding are the same as those listed above but the difference is that the funding can be used only for one-off start-up funding or work that is time critical.

All Essex Big Society Fund Projects should meet a local need, have local support, be open to all members of the community, and should improve and/or protect the social, environmental or economic wellbeing of the community and be able to secure match funding. For more information, please see the website: www.essex.gov.uk/Health-Social-Care/Community-services/Pages/Big-Society-Fund.aspx.

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NEWS FROM THE CRAFTON ROOM

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It's that time of year again and we are about to start work on the kitchen garden at the Day Centre. Last year we grew a variety of vegetables which were enjoyed by all; we even had a surplus that we were able to give away, so feel free to pop in and see what we've got to offer. If anyone would like to volunteer an hour a month to help us maintain our garden please contact me. Our website is coming together well, and has a variety of information, including forthcoming events, hiring information and our menu plan for the week ahead. Remember, you can get a two course lunch on three days per week for just £5.00; where else in Stansted can you get that?

Kat Lupton
Manager
Tel: 815091

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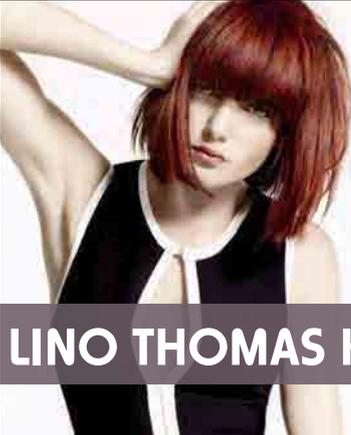
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