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Front cover photo:
View from Pennington Lane
by Yvonne Ayres

The Link is produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available online at www.stanstedlink.org.uk.

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Copyzone
01279 657769

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The Link is delivered free to over 3000 homes and businesses in Stansted Mountfitchet. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £10.00 for the year, plus postage.

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by **noon** on **8th June** for the July issue

Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

EDITORIAL



The recent success of the parents and friends of Farnham School to halt plans to re-locate it to Stansted shows that 'people power' can sometimes work. The re-siting of our new Health Centre from the original one in Foresthall Park to the more central position in Lower Street is another instance where pressure from local residents forced a re-think. Similarly if enough people (especially account holders) write to the Chairman of Barclays Bank objecting to the closure of the Stansted branch later on this month, there must still be a chance of a reprieve. See page 19 for the Chairman's address and further details.

Further to the comments on the Annual Parish Reception made by Peter Latham of the Rotary Club on page 17 our thanks go to the Parish Council for providing an opportunity for hard working volunteers to relax, meet old friends and new, and enjoy the fine food on offer. The efficient 'wine waiter' was also appreciated; look forward to seeing everyone there again next year!

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

In 1888 Otto von Bismarck predicted, "One day the great European War will come out of some damned foolish thing in the Balkans." He was correct. The events leading up to the outbreak of what we now call the First World War began 100 years ago this month with the assassination of the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian empire in Sarajevo on 28th June 1914. Within five weeks a war had erupted in which over nine million soldiers would die and many millions more would be injured.

A few weeks ago I travelled for the first time to the War Graves in France to visit the grave of one great uncle and the memorials on which two others, who have no graves, are commemorated. They were three brothers who died one after the other in that terrible conflict. Like so many others who have visited those sites I was very impressed by the care with which they are looked after and I found the experience extremely moving. In my family the three who died were always called 'the boys', and they were just boys still in their teens. In their day they weren't even old enough to vote, but they were old enough to die. I just wanted to say to those boys, "You are not forgotten. You are remembered and you are loved." There is nothing to celebrate in this centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. There is no place for jingoism or flag waving. I'm sure my great uncles believed they were doing what was right, and that's enough for me at this distance. We have got four years of remembering ahead of us. God forbid that the politicians should use these anniversaries for their own self-promotion. There is no place for that. Let us just remember the men and women who died, and those, who though they lived, were never the same again. Let us just remember the boys.



Paul Wilkin
Rector
St John's Church



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for June

1st 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - communion
15th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
22nd 10.30am Nicola Grieves – Pilots Service
29th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble

Ministerial Update

Our Methodist minister Rev'd David Keeble retires at the end of July, and after that date we will no longer have a Methodist minister. However, in October we will be welcoming Rev'd Roy Fowler as our United Reformed minister. We very much look forward to his ministry with us.

The Place on the Hill – every Wed and Fri 9.30am- 12.30pm

Our free Wednesday and Friday drop-in is very popular, with Art for All on the first Friday, and storytime on the third Friday of each month. Free refreshments and wifi, good company, space for the children to run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating. Come and join us – all ages are welcome. For more information telephone Marion and Mike on 814059.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

Priest Father John Garrett
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 9.00am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

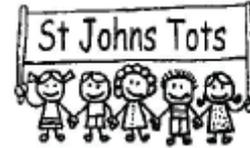
Baptisms By appointment

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

Clerk Sue Moloney
5 Chatter End, Farnham Green
Bishop's Stortford
Tel: 01279 771405

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am



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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday

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

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

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

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

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

The Tots group is hosted in St John's Church on Chapel Hill every Tuesday 9.15am-11.00am and is suitable for those with babies through to nursery children. There are a mixture of mums, dads, childminders, grandparents and other carers who attend and everyone is made very welcome by the volunteers and regulars. They are offered essential hot drinks and biscuits after what can be for many, a hectic morning already, even by 9.30am! It is a very relaxed and informal group where the children are allowed to play freely and parents can meet and chat. The children enjoy a short service with singing, stories and shakers, finishing with the 'wiggle wiggle freeze' dance that has become a firm favourite with all. There is plenty of seating for parents with babes in arms, toys and carpeted area for young babies to sit and play, and a whole church for toddlers and pre-schoolers to explore (with parents' supervision). Buggy racing up the aisles proves popular (especially with the little boys) and there is a quiet corner with teddies, books, drawing and play kitchen too. So come along with your little treasures any time if you are new to Stansted or surrounding villages, and want to get out and about on a Tuesday morning and make new friends in the community. No fees or anything, but most just give a £1 donation each week. There is plenty of space to bring buggies inside if you are walking, or you can park in either the Church car park or that of the old school building next door, which is also off St John's Road. Tots runs pretty much throughout the year even in school holidays when some primary children join in.

Tots playgroup 'best bits' mentioned by current visitors include:

- "Always a warm welcome for me and my children here so don't feel the need to come with someone because you always get chatting to others"
- "A fun musical service by Rev'd Paul - he really engages and entertains the children"
- "Happy and relaxed kids"
- "A brilliant space for children to look around and play"
- "Familiar faces and nice to meet different parents in the area"
- "Useful to find out about different things going on in the village and at nurseries and schools from other mums here"
- "Copious mugs of tea and biscuits!"

Tots Event Tuesday 10th June 11.30am-1.30pm Teddy Bears Picnic in the church. Bring a blanket, packed lunch and teddy, and the children will enjoy the church being transformed into a pretty garden scene. If mums feel inclined to make a parachute for teddy, the Rector has kindly offered to take the suitably equipped teddies up to the church tower and parachute them down (for a small donation to Tots). There will be one or two other activities also planned so do come along and join in the fun!



Nadine Lloyd
Email: nadineclloyd@googlemail.com

From the Registers

April

Baptisms

20th Abby Iris Miller
Lewis Robert Antony Miller

Funerals

17th Peter Pavitt, age 88 - at St John's,
interment in Parish Cemetery

23rd Percy Turner, age 89 -
at Parndon Wood



www.stanstedfamilychurch.com

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

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently. For details of events see the What's On page of our church website, or contact us.

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

The winners of the last draws for 2013/14 held on 27th April:

- £100 No 134 - Laura Higley
- £ 50 No 17 - Harold Thistle
- £ 25 No 9 - Sam Longbottom

Congratulations to all 38 winners over the last 12 months, who all won a share of the total prize money of £2,500. Many thanks to those who have renewed their membership for another year and, to those who have just joined, thank you, welcome to the Club and good luck to you all! If you would also like to be in with a chance to win over the coming year, there are still numbers available at a cost of £2 per number per month up to a maximum of five per household. Please contact me if you would like an application form or further details. The first draws for the new year of operation will be carried out on Sunday 25th May in St John's Church following the 9.30am service and those for June will be held on Sunday 29th June.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562



Some of this year's collectors gathered at the Friends Meeting House at the beginning of Christian Aid week for an informal service. As well as the usual hymns and songs,



bible readings, and prayers, it also included a video depicting the hardships endured by the people of Sudan and how Christian Aid is helping them, plus a very amusing video showing the type of responses met by Christian Aid collectors on the doorstep.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Shalom

Our next meeting is at 8.00pm on Monday 9th June at 7 Blythwood Gardens, when Rev'd David Keeble from the Free Church will talk to us about 'My Journey; from fisherman to fisher of men'. This promises to be a very interesting evening, and will be the last time David leads a session for us, as he retires in August. Our At Home is at 8.00pm on Monday 23rd June at The White House, Ugley Green.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

The Churches Conservation Trust National Fund Raising Tea Party, Saturday 14th June 11.00am-3.00pm in the Day Centre There are now 345 churches throughout England, once known as 'Redundant'. They rely upon the Churches Conservation Trust for funding to maintain the fabric of the buildings, so that they are kept open, valued and welcoming, both to their local community and to thousands of visitors. Many of the buildings are now refurbished and are in constant, if different use, as farmers' markets, book fairs, nursery schools, local group meetings and the obvious venues as concert halls and lecture theatres. St Mary's has a fine peal of bells and welcomes ringers from towers throughout the country. We are so pleased that members of Stansted school children come to the church to study and be made aware of the history of the village. St Mary's Friends look forward to seeing you at the Crafton Room on Saturday 14th June when we will have several stalls and of course, a good raffle. We have earned a reputation for good food; we hope you will join us for coffee or to buy a light lunch with a glass of wine or a cream tea or perhaps make it a party day and stay for both! Entry is only £1.

Audrey Rodgers
Chairman
Tel: 812162



DO SOMETHING MEMORABLE THIS FATHER'S DAY

Remember. Celebrate. Change lives. Macmillan Cancer Support has created a special place where people can remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones lost to cancer. Losing someone you love can leave you feeling lost, particularly with the approach of Father's Day on 15th June. So Macmillan have created a website called Tribute Funds, a permanent place where friends and family can come together, share memories, create a lasting legacy and even change lives. If someone close to you dies from cancer, call the Macmillan support line on 0808 808 0000. They will help you cope with grief, give you practical information, and when you're ready, offer ways to celebrate the life of your loved one. For more about the tribute funds, visit www.macmillan.tributeffunds.com or contact me.

Claire Husband
Fundraising Manager, Herts and Essex
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Huw Johnson Club

This year is a double-whammy year for the Club as it marks the retirement of its founders Tom and Marion Johnson and in August the 40th anniversary of its beginnings. Few would have predicted in 1974 that a volunteer group pioneered by these two stalwarts and named after their son, a victim of Multiple Sclerosis, would have achieved so many years of service to handicapped youngsters and still show no sign of demise. The publicly-funded Accuro group has since formed in Saffron Walden and provides a social venue at other times in the week, but the Club's attraction on a Thursday evening continues unabated.



Photo by Sandra Embleton

In the early days there were more young people with learning and physical difficulties in Stansted and surrounding villages, partly due to the presence of the County Council's home at Hargrave House. In addition to the dozen or so from there, a similar number of members came from local families. Numerous helpers joined the Thursday evening gathering in St John's Church Hall and so made it a community enterprise. Shortly before this a handicapped Scout Group named 'The Tortoises' had been formed in the village, so there were several young people with a joint membership and the Club soon became a mecca for the young and disadvantaged in this corner of Essex. Several years ago the county home moved to Great Baddow, while in Stansted the Tortoise Scouts closed in 2011 due to falling numbers, but remarkably several of the Club members who joined in the 80s and 90s continue to attend today. Moreover, the focus of membership has moved towards Saffron Walden, so bringing a transport commitment which the founders did not have. Today a small caucus of drivers and a minibus team make the weekly journey to Saffron Walden to collect and return the members, some of whom are now approaching middle age. However, local loyalties hold good and the members are assured of a welcome and a happy evening with a dependable and cheery group of helpers on most Thursdays of the year. Due to the hazards of winter travel we now meet for most of the summer but take a break in January and February.

So many good folk have assisted the Club that it is not possible to name them all, but it is only right to congratulate Katharine (the present chair), Sandra, Ellen, Hannah and Jean for their devotion over so many years and the minibus drivers, Andrew, Brian, Tony (now retired) and Gary. Between them they could recount many a surprising tale!

Perhaps, most importantly, we should be thankful to Marion and Tom Johnson for bringing it all into being. The Club continues to be open to new members, has simplified its original name, and is revising its logo whilst remaining at heart the friendly home from home that it has always been. Come and see or even join us one Thursday evening from 7.00pm-8.30pm in St John's Church Hall!



Derek Honour
President
Tel: 647213

CHARACTERISTICS OF DOGS

Do breeds of dogs have different characteristics? It's a question I get asked regularly, and I guess anyone that has had a lot of contact with different dog breeds would say a definite yes. You only have to look in the Kennel Club breed characteristics to see that certain traits are associated with certain breeds. The 'calm firmness' and loyalty of the German Shepherd, or the 'devoted companionship' of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, for example. But I also find it interesting to read in-between the lines of these breed descriptions. The Chihuahua for example is described as having a 'saucy expression and leaving you in no doubt that he really thinks he is a big dog' and also that he is a much loved lap dog who 'announces the approach of strangers.' Translated this means that when a Chihuahua looks at you in a certain way, chat pleasantly to the owner while trying to work out a way of extracting the dog from her arms, and definitely don't put your hand out for him to sniff, or he'll have your fingers off! Although we shouldn't assume all dogs of a certain breed will behave in a certain way, I do find that German Shepherds tend to bark first and ask questions later, Labradors will follow you to the ends of the earth for a biscuit, and if you can get anywhere near a hyperactive anxious Weimeraner in the first five minutes of a consultation you're lucky! Some owners like to compare their dogs to famous people; I know of one client who said her rather aloof and elegant Afghan hound was like the supermodel Kate Moss and I've definitely seen a few Bulldogs that could pass for Ray Winstone on a dark night! It just goes to show how much we love our dogs and how much personality is important to owners when choosing certain breeds. For more information on different breeds and how to choose a dog there is a lot of good information on the Kennel Club website www.thekennelclub.org.uk/getting-a-dog-or.../finding-the-right-dog and also on our own website www.mercerandhughes.co.uk.

The other thing you may be interested in this month is our annual charity dog walk. We had the first one last year and it was a huge success. Run from our Great Dunmow surgery, starting at 10.30am for about an hour to an hour and a half walk along the Flitch Way to Little Dunmow and back with free refreshments at the surgery afterwards. There is an entrance fee per dog which goes to charity; this year it is Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and there is also a charity raffle. The date is Sunday 29th June; for more details telephone any of the surgeries or go onto our website or Facebook page. It will be great to see all there along with your Kates or Rays or whatever other four legged friends you have in your house!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons
Tel: 813780

Dylan's Dog Walks

Rob Fuller

2 Miller Close

Foresthall Park

Stansted Mountfitchet

Essex CM24 8FJ

0772 9246482



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info@dylansdogwalks.com

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STANSTED 10K FUN RUN

www.stansted10k.org.uk



We do hope that your training for the 10K is going well, if you are taking part this year! If, however, running isn't your thing but you'd still like to get involved and support both this great event in the Village's diary and your local Hospice, we are always on the look-out for people who can help us out on the day. We are looking for people to help us register runners on the day – take their details and to allocate them a running number – an essential administrative role! For this, we would ask helpers to come along to Bentfield Green from around 9.00am but then they would be free to go from around 11.30am once all the runners have started – unless of course they fancy taking up a marshal point as well! As a marshal, you would have a specific point on the route to make your way to on the morning of 13th July and you would be making sure that all runners pass your marshalling point safely. You could man one of our water stations along the route which would involve keeping the water tables stocked with bottles of water (generously sponsored by Linden House and Stansted Business Forum) for runners to grab as they pass. For both of these rôles we would ask helpers to arrive at Bentfield Green at around 9.30am-10.00am to sign in with us and to collect their marshals' bags. We would also be grateful for people to help set up the area on Bentfield Green from around 8.30am and also to dismantle everything and clear up once the last runners have finished, which we would anticipate being at around 2.00pm-3.00pm.

SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL RUNNING

Part 3 Nutrition

Just as with any car, where a great engine is useless without the correct fuel and maintenance, the same goes for running. What you eat and drink can impact greatly how well you perform so you need to think of your diet as being central to providing fuel for your body's 'engine' and helping your muscles to repair after they have been working hard. The simplest advice is to try and maintain a steady regime of three healthy meals a day with a balance of carbohydrates and protein – the carbs give you energy to run whilst the protein helps your body repair any damage suffered to muscles. Whilst potatoes, pasta and brown rice are obvious sources of carbs, don't forget that plenty of vegetables also contain carbohydrates and vitamins. Chicken, fish, and turkey are all good sources of protein. Sadly, the one thing to certainly reduce or ideally avoid altogether is alcohol. Always try and eat a meal within 30 minutes of your training run as this allows the body to replenish sugar levels so that you are ready to go the next time. Rest is also essential as sleep enables the body to repair and refuel. For snacking, avoid crisps and chocolate but try some nuts, raisins and fruit instead. One of the most important considerations though is hydration – you should aim to drink two litres of water a day and pay special attention to drinking plenty after you have completed a run. Dehydration can cause serious problems for runners. For training advice or treatment for injuries, please contact me. To register for the Stansted 10K, please go to www.stansted10k.org.uk.

George Cooper

George Cooper Sports Injury and Physiotherapy Clinic
Tel: 813253



Previous organisers, Marion and Mike Dyer (far right) and helper Wendy Train (centre) handing over to the St Clare team and main sponsor George Cooper.

If you fancy lending a hand in any capacity, do please get in touch with my colleague, Sarah Calder on 07528 520016 as she is co-ordinating our volunteers. There will be a volunteer 'get-together' evening at 7.00pm on Tuesday 10th June at the Rose and Crown on Bentfield Green, where we will be explaining exactly what is involved and our plans for the day so do come along if you can.

The summer months are always busy for us in fundraising; as the weather warms up people like to get out to local events and support us, which is fantastic! Fascinators at the ready, ladies! We are holding an Ascot Ladies' Day event at Manuden's magnificent new Village Hall on Thursday 19th June. Guests are invited to dress up as though they were going along to Ascot and to join us for a light lunch, a fun flutter and afternoon tea, all for £15! Our wonderful Stansted Supporters Group will be running a tombola at the Stansted Summer Fair on 5th July so do pop along and try your luck! We are very busy with preparations for the St Clare Hospice Stansted 10K on 13th July at 11.00am so do sign up and start training if that's your thing! If not, how about a skydive on 19th July? There is a £50 registration fee and 'divers' are asked to raise a minimum of £390 for the Hospice – just contact me if you are a thrill seeker looking for a new challenge! And for any anglers out there, our hugely popular Clavering Lakes Fishing Competition will be on 4th October this year so do get in touch with me if you'd like to register as this event sells out very quickly. Please contact me for more information on any of the above.



Rebecca Barnett
Tel: 773753
Email: rebecca.barnett@stclarehospice.org.uk



Sarah Calder
Tel: 07528 520016
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Our open day on Sunday 22nd June will see us going back to World War II and celebrating the Easton Lodge's links with that period; especially poignant considering this year being the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. 'Perfect Vintage', a vocal duo who have performed all over the UK and are highly regarded in the vintage scene, will be providing musical entertainment throughout the afternoon and visitors can expect to hear all the classic songs from the wartime era. There will be themed craft and nature activities available for our younger visitors. World War II vehicles will be on site as well as special displays relating to our links with the RAF. If you have a vehicle or other memorabilia that you could lend us for the event then do please get in touch. There are guided tours at 1.00pm and 3.00pm which cover all aspects of the garden's history. The Royal British Legion will also have a stall. Hot food will be on sale at lunch time including bacon rolls and sausage baps; hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes will be available all day. We have new opening hours for 2014 with entry from 11.30am; the gardens close at 5.00pm with last entry at 4.00pm. Entrance is still only adults £3.50, children free, making it a very affordable day out, especially for families. Dog lovers are reminded that their pets are more than welcome as long as they are kept on a lead. For more information please telephone 01371 876979, email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or visit our website.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator



BOSOM BUDDIES

Bosom Buddies is a weekly drop-in group for mums who are breastfeeding their babies. Practical advice and support is available from health visitors and trained breastfeeding helpers as well as an opportunity to meet with and chat to other breastfeeding mums. Older children are also welcome. This free group runs from 1.30pm- 3.15pm every Wednesday at Spangles, Lower Street, in an adjoining room to the baby weighing clinic.



Lesley Murdoch
Community engagement and volunteer coordinator
Tel: 812348
Email: lmurdoch@spurgeons.org

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TOOLS WITH A MISSION

The work of TWAM (Tools with a Mission) has been featured in The Link before, but many may have missed the article or moved into the area in the last few years. TWAM has been operating for about 30 years giving practical help to people in overseas countries to earn a living and support themselves. In many countries of the world people have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living, a switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. TWAM seeks to help by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sending them abroad where the need is greatest. Most tools and equipment related to the major trades are welcome, but tools used by the following are of particular interest and usefulness: motor mechanics, carpenters, metalworkers, leather workers, electricians, builders, plumbers, and some of the basic tools used by gardeners. Useful machines include sewing machines, knitting machines, typewriters, duplicators, wheelchairs, power tools and strong framed cycles. TWAM also has Education and Haberdashery departments so such things as sewing/knitting items, fabrics and school books, text books covering all ages are welcome. If you have any unwanted items that you think TWAM would be interested in and would like to donate to the mission please contact me to arrange collection. To learn more about the work of TWAM log on to www.twam.co.uk.

Peter Webb
Rep-Reg Collector, Herts & Essex Border
Tel: 813954

FARNHAM SCHOOL – CELEBRATE THE FUTURE!

www.facebook.com/farnhamprimaryessex

The Farnham School parent body were delighted to find that the governing body voted unanimously to keep Farnham Primary School in Farnham. The consultation had proposed a move into Stansted, but we all agreed that this would be to the detriment of our small village school. The ethos of the school has always been to give particular attention to each child's individual needs, whether this focuses on the curriculum or their social development. Every child at Farnham blossoms, and achieves well, as a result of the small ratios. So, looking forward, the aim of the Friends of Farnham is to ensure that families in Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and surrounding areas are aware that they are in the catchment for Farnham. For reasons that we are trying to address, the Council haven't made this clear, so it is time to redress the balance - we can't keep the secret to ourselves! Parents and governors are happy to show you around the school, so please telephone the school on 771339 to arrange a visit. In the meantime, we are delighted to invite you to our Summer Fête on Saturday 14th June 11.00am-2.00pm. We will have a fun range of stalls, great for adults and children alike, and would love to see you all there for pony rides, a scavenger hunt, bouncy castles, barbecue, plant sale, and much, much more. Entry free!

Rachel Pocknell
Friends of Farnham School


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May Meeting

Lynn Garner, author and founder of the Hedgehog Shed/Herts Hogline, told members about the 'gardeners' friend' and one of the nation's favourite animals - the hedgehog. She revealed that there is a shocking decline in their numbers and they have become an endangered species. Long-term monitoring has shown that in the 1950s the UK population was 36 million but today it is down to one million; in fact they are disappearing as fast as tigers! Some of the reasons for this drastic decline were outlined - loss of hedgerows, tidy gardens with hedgehog-proof fencing, pesticides, increase in badger population, garden machines (strimmers and lawn-mowers), climate change, especially the areas badly flooded over the winter, and road traffic fatalities.



The Hedgehog Shed/Herts Hogline, a small voluntary group, works closely with local vets and other animal charities to help sick and injured adults or abandoned hoglets. When in good health they are released back into the wild, or if permanently injured (partially blind, amputees etc.) they are cared for in a suitable garden by foster-carers. Some of the ways gardeners can help were outlined: always check bonfires before lighting them; open compost heaps carefully, preferably not using a fork; leave wild areas in your garden and make small holes in walls or fences to enable them to move around to look for food and mates; do not use slug pellets - if poisoned slugs are eaten the poison builds up in their system; and leave water out in hot weather - do not put milk out as hedgehogs are lactose intolerant. To help build up fat reserves for winter leave cat/dog biscuits or food for them, and if you want to treat a hog, leave out a digestive biscuit for them to munch on!

A lively question and answer session followed the talk with members and visitors being able to purchase items to help the Hogline's funds.

Mini Spring Show

Certificates were handed out to Members who attained 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the various classes and Mrs Ann Howarth was presented with The Humphrey Cup for Class 15 - A Floral Arrangement in a teacup/mug.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 4th June 'Fuchsias - The Three Virtues' by Mr Nick Dobson. Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Refreshments available before meeting. Everyone is welcome to our meetings and membership is available - £12 single/£20 double (two people at same address). Day visitors £2.50. Unless an evening visit is arranged, our meetings are held at the Day Centre, adjacent to the car park at the top of Chapel Hill. Please see website for more information on our programme for the 2014-15 season.

Maralyn Harris - Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

GARDENING TIPS

As temperatures can reach hefty heights during June, it's a good idea to top up mulches if they are thin or non-existent. Mulching helps to suppress weeds, and significantly reduces moisture loss due to evaporation. I recommend **well-rotted** horse or cow manure, but if you have enough home-made compost, this works just as well. Failing that you can buy bark mulch locally, but it is more expensive with a 90 litre bag only really being enough to cover about one square metre (despite what it may say on the bag). Weeds can grow fast in June, as they have an optimum combination of heat and moisture. With annual weeds, use a Dutch hoe in a gentle back and forth motion in the top inch of soil to break them and leave to wither in the sun. Perennial weeds (such as dandelions) should be dug out entirely. Docks which have a particularly vigorous tap root can be tough to dig out, a useful technique to use with mature docks is to grab the rosette of leaves, and pull and twist at the same time; they tend to unscrew themselves from the ground, tap root included.



Many modern roses will repeat flower if they are dead-headed (removing old spent flower heads). Alas this is not the case for most rambling roses. In a similar vein, hardy geraniums (not pelargoniums) can be cut back hard once they have finished flowering to just above the ground, and you may receive a second smaller flush of flowers in late August/September. The heat means summer months are not good for planting perennials, so if you do have to plant at this time of year, keep the plants in question well watered throughout their first summer to ensure a long life!

Paul the Gardener

DID YOU KNOW?

The villagers of Manuden, Farnham, Elsenham, Stansted and Ugley fought against the national boundary commission in 1888 who wanted to reclassify the villages as being in Hertfordshire, not Essex. The villagers won the argument and remain proud to be in Essex.

The Little Book of Essex by Dee Gordon.

Ralph Phillips

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THE CRAFTON ROOM

www.stansteddaycentre.org.uk

Can you help us? Following months of reporting on our wonderful meals and sociable occasions we have become victims of our own success and are now struggling to offer lifts to and from the Day Centre for any newcomers who are unable to make their own travel arrangements but wish to enjoy our wonderful facility. The primary function of Day and Community Centres is to provide people with social interaction, companionship and social opportunities. I am sure you will agree that with many people living alone and reporting that they have little chance of getting out and meeting people, we offer a valuable service. We are, of course, also here providing excellent food, homemade cakes and drinks for people looking for a break on the way home from shopping, killing time waiting for the bus or simply wanting food at excellent value for money and no washing up!! If you have a four door car and a couple of hours to spare every three weeks or indeed for occasional holiday cover I would love to hear from you. Without our willing, hardworking volunteers the services we offer are not possible, so please give it some thought – you would be making a huge difference to peoples' lives. If interested please contact me or pop in for an informal chat; we are here on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am–2.30pm. As always Fish and Chip Friday will be on the last Friday in the month, 27th June, at 12.30pm £7.50 per head. We look forward to hearing from you.



Julie Beck
Centre Manager
Tel: 815091

Email: Juliebeck1989@gmail.com

DR STEPHEN WINKLEY SUDDEN SAD DEATH

Senior citizens of Stansted will remember the Winkley family. Mr G W D Winkley was the manager of Barclays Bank and the family lived at 'The Hollies' in St John's Road. The family were very involved in the life of the village and the church in the 50s and 60s. The two sons Stephen and Roger were choirboys in my time as Organist, and Mr Winkley served as Treasurer on the Parochial Church Council. Both boys were pupils of St Mary's Primary School when Mr Hare was Headmaster. The late Dr Stephen Winkley had a distinguished career as Principal of several famous Public Schools including Winchester, Uppingham and the Rossall School in Northumberland.

Keith Turner

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Stansted Tennis Club



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Junior Ladder

Last month the Club instigated a Junior Ladder competition, whereby junior members challenge each other to singles matches throughout the summer. Already the children are really getting into the swing of arranging and playing matches, which are proving very competitive.

Club Tournament

The draws are now up on the Clubhouse noticeboard, so if you are playing in this year's competition, please could you arrange your 1st round matches as soon as possible.

Wimbledon ballot

The Club was offered five pairs of Wimbledon tickets by the LTA for this year's Championships. Thirty-five members entered our ballot, which we held on 30th April. The lucky winners were: Ellen Nichol, Lyn Timms, Pam Howley, Gerry Howley and Hugh Rutherford.

Ladies' Night

Monday 9th June 7.00pm. All lady members welcome.

Club sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings, and Friday mornings. All members are welcome.

Junior coaching

I have continued with my junior and senior coaching groups. Please contact me for more information.

Tennis balls

£1 for a tube of FOUR from Jan Hollis, 105 Cambridge Road.

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574. For more information see our website.



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk



Chris Hollis
Tel: 319155

Everyone has returned rested after the Easter holidays and for the older group children it is the final term before they move onto primary school. Our theme this half term is Mini Beasts. As well as creating spiders and ants the children have been learning to move like mini beasts. The children love the frog pond and the tadpoles seem to like their new home - fingers crossed for some frogs! We are all looking forward to welcoming Kate back from Fallen Moon to lead another music, dancing and art session for us. By the time you read this, the Family Fun Day will have taken place. We will do a list of all our 'thank yous' in the next issue. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place. Places for September 2014 and 2015 are filling up fast!

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

Now that our 2013-4 season has ended it seems an opportune time to say a few public 'thank you's. Firstly, to our fantastic body of enthusiastic members without whom there would be no local music club. Many of our members are founder members having been with us since the Club made its debut as The Village Music Club in 1996. Thank you also to our corporate members and sponsors (several of which have also been with us from the start) – Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers; The Cock; DC Poulton and Sons; Lower Street Brasserie; Hockerill Dental Practice; JAM graphic design solutions; D Honour and Son (Landscape) Ltd; Absolute Travel; Steve Golding; Lino Thomas Hairdressers; Daniel Robinson and Sons; The Rose and Crown; and Kings Family Butchers. These sponsorships give us that extra income to ensure that we can bring to Stansted some of the best national and international musicians. We always welcome new members and full details of how to join will appear in the July edition of The Link. New sponsors are also most welcome and, if you would like to consider this with its attendant publicity, please email me and I shall be pleased to supply more details. Concerts next season will be on 11th October at 7.30pm (Erdem Misirlioglu, Piano), 7th December at 3.00pm (Ensemble Elvira – flute and harp), 25th January at 3.00pm (Adelia Myslov, violin, and Craig White, piano), and 14th March at 7.30pm (The Coull String Quartet). Check out our website for general information.

Alan Corbishley
Email: info@musicatstansted.com

Uttlesforde Orchestra

The last concert of this season at 7.30pm on Saturday 7th June in the Saffron Hall is a programme of popular and exciting works, beginning with Wagner's *Flying Dutchman Overture* and its relentless energy and a terrific opportunity for the brass sections to blazon their talent. This will be followed by Dvorak's wonderful cello concerto, a beautiful and subtle dialogue between the cello and orchestra, with typically Slavonic lyricism and passion. The orchestra is fortunate to have in John Myerscough, the cellist of the internationally-renowned Doric String Quartet, a soloist of formidable ability and musicality. The concert concludes with Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, a masterly work full of vitality and beautiful, typically Tchaikovskian melody. The concert promises to be a rousing conclusion to the orchestra's season and its second concert at the splendid new Saffron Hall. The orchestra is conducted by Richard Hull, and led by Sarah James. Tickets £10 adults, £8 concessions, £3 children, from Saffron Walden Tourist Information on 01799 524002, Saffron Hall box office on 08455 487650, online at www.saffronhall.com or on the door. The orchestra will start its next season under the new name of Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra, with its traditional Family Concert at Saffron Hall on 19th October.

Jonathan Ecclestone



STANSTED DEFIBRILLATOR APPEAL

What an amazing result!

The Stansted churches' Lent appeal has raised £4,200 for defibrillators. This is in addition to the money already collected by the King's Arms. Thank you to everyone who has organised fundraising events including a Pancake Evening, a Quiz and a Hunger Lunch, and for the donations from individuals, the churches and the U3A. It is heart-warming and heart-saving.



Two year-old Ava Richards gives her donation to the appeal at the Hunger Lunch. Photo by Alan Wheeler.

What next? In collaboration with the doctors and ambulance service we will decide how many defibrillators to purchase and where they will be kept. A sum of money will be retained for maintenance. The 12 people who have expressed an interest in being first responders will be trained by the ambulance service. Then we shall all sleep easier knowing that these wonderful machines are ready to be put to use in saving lives in Stansted.



Catherine Dean
On behalf of Churches Together in Stansted
Tel: 813579
Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 21st June

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admissions@saintnicholasschool.net

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"I am really excited about this development which will enable young children to benefit from the quality education we provide?"
Keith Knight - Headmaster



GUESS WHO I AM

I was born in Enfield and brought up in Dorset where I attended Parkstone Grammar School (Poole). My lifelong love of exploring new places started as soon as I left school as I embarked on the training for my chosen career in the medical profession. My training took me to London, Edinburgh and to Oxford where my mode of transport was a bike – just like in ‘Call The Midwife’.

My first job, before I started my training, was as a very lowly helper in Wimborne Cottage Hospital in Dorset miles apart, literally and culturally from one of the places I have worked in during my career. For two and a half years I ran a health clinic and training centre in the Brazilian jungle on the banks of the Amazon (the only method of transport there was a canoe and I did dodge the piranhas!). It was 150 miles from the nearest town but luckily there was a larger boat twice a week to do that journey! My last job was a bit closer to home in Harlow.

I have lived in Stansted for 37 years with my husband and we have three children. Now retired, I enjoy doing voluntary work and also belong to many village organisations. We both relish being able to spend time with our four grandchildren, and of course indulging in our shared passion of foreign travel.

Claim to Fame: I've travelled a total of over 2,000 miles up the Amazon from the Atlantic Ocean as far as possible in various boats (large and small) and then overland to the Pacific Ocean in Peru. (Not all on the same journey, I hasten to add.) Guess who I am.



ROTARY CLUB OF STORT VALLEY

For the first time, a Rotary colleague and I had the pleasure of attending the reception at the Day Centre for a representative selection of those thought to have contributed in some way to the life of the Parish. The event is covered in the Parish Council section of this edition, but nonetheless I was so impressed with the gathering that I feel compelled to comment. We arrived to find the hall already buzzing and quickly joined in, meeting interesting people from the voluntary sector, business and commerce, and pupils from Forest Hall School as well as local politicians, and even a straightforward ‘character’. Also, for the first time, in the flesh, we met a representative of the Stansted Link - this fine 25 year old community publication.

What was very clear was the commitment of all those present to the continuing vitality of the village. In one of the very short addresses, we were told that despite their different hues, politicians always pursue the interests of Stansted ahead of party loyalties. If Stansted is representative of the District, it can be no surprise that Uttlesford has been judged one of the most contented and favoured places in our country to live. The Rotary Club of Stort Valley meets on Tuesdays, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Lemon Tree Restaurant, Bishop’s Stortford.



Peter Latham
Tel: 507294
Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

CHILDREN’S PUZZLE

The letters ABCEHRSTX are to be put in the squares below, one letter in each square, so that:

- C and T are in the top row
- E and R are in the bottom row
- T and S are in the left hand column
- R and X are in the right hand column

		A
B		

Two letters are given to get you started. Can you work the rest of them out?

Answer on page 25

A CAUTIONARY TALE

It's that time of year again. The days are warmer and brighter encouraging us all to spend more time outside. Spring flowers are well past their best and all keen gardeners are replenishing their pots and borders, especially those planning to enter the ‘Stansted in Bloom’ competition. For many this means a trip to a local garden centre or nursery to buy summer bedding plants. But visits to such establishments can be costly in more ways than one. To gardeners a well-stocked garden centre is like another child's toy box to a toddler - full of temptation. The astute retailer knows this and positions the seasonal ‘must-haves’ in such a way that customers have to walk past a plethora of attractive goods in order to reach them.

In the past I have succumbed to this cunning ploy and made one or two impulse buys, completely seduced by stunning pictures and phrases like ‘provides all year round interest’ and ‘perfect for a small garden’. I've bought a Magnolia tree that has never flowered since I planted it over five years ago. (I've since been told that Magnolias often take many years to produce blooms. I don't remember seeing that mentioned on the label!) I'm also still waiting for a Sacred Bamboo planted two years ago, to produce the ‘profusion of white flowers followed by bright berries’ that was promised.

So please fellow gardeners bear this in mind when visiting the garden centre or nursery and fight the impulse to buy plants ‘off piste’. This year, to avoid temptation, I'm sending my other half with a list, so if it all goes pear-shaped I can't be blamed for wasting money!

Loki

GUESS WHO I AM - ANSWER



Christine Stiles, Stansted Helpline Secretary and Red Cross Organiser.

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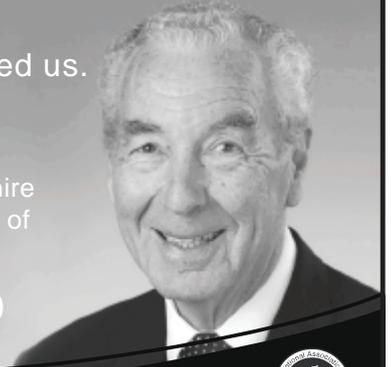
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

At our annual meeting held on 7 May Maureen Cation was elected as Chairman after Geoffrey Sell who has been Chairman since 2006 decided to relinquish his position. Cllr Sell will now take up the position of Vice Chairman.



Cllr Sell thanked his family and the people of Stansted for their support during his time as Chairman. He praised the teamwork of councillors and officers which he felt had contributed to a making a positive difference to the quality of life we enjoy in Stansted. He stressed the importance of continual engagement with the local community.

Cllr Jones was re-elected as Chairman of the Finance and General purposes committee with Cllr O'Brien as his Vice Chairman. Cllr Dunn takes over as chair of Open Spaces with Cllr Richards as her Vice Chairman.

BARCLAYS BANK CLOSURE

Time is running out to challenge the closure of Barclays Bank in Cambridge Road. Please write a letter of objection to:

Sir David Walker
Chairman Barclays Bank PLC
1 Churchill Place
London E14 5AP

If you need some ideas of what to include please see the letter the Parish Council distributed to all households, a copy of which can also be found on our website. The Parish Council, Business Forum and the

Churches have all sent objections. The more letters that arrive on Sir David's desk the more chance we have of getting them to respond positively to our case.

PINES HILL PLANNING APPLICATION REJECTED

The Planning Committee of Uttlesford District Council refused the application by Linden Homes to build 68 residential dwellings with access to Pines Hill. The grounds for refusal were threefold and were in line with the views expressed by the Parish Council:

1. The site lies in Metropolitan Green Belt where there is a presumption against inappropriate development.
2. Inadequate survey information in respect of protected species including badgers, reptiles and bats.
3. Application fails to mitigate fully the impact of pressure on local education and health facilities within the district.

YUVA - CHANGE OF USE PLANNING APPLICATION

A planning application has been lodged with Uttlesford District Council following the closure of Yuva (formerly the Bell and Feathers). They want to convert the building into two retail units with an office on the ground floor and two apartments above.

ANNUAL PARISH RECEPTION

The full range of Parish organisations were represented at the annual parish reception. Out-going Chairman gave a brief vote of thanks praising volunteers for the contribution in making Stansted a thriving and inclusive community.



GRASS CUTTING

Our contractors generally do a very good job in keeping the the grass on our open spaces looking neat and tidy but the areas where daffodils have been planted create a problem for them at this time of year. The daffodils cannot be cut down before June so a short period of untidiness in these areas is unavoidable.

SKATEPARK FUND RAISING

We hope that many of you will support the fund raising efforts of the Skatepark action Group. They are holding a raffle for which the first prize is a £100 makeover generously donated by Refinery, the mens outfitters and groomers in Cambridge Road. As we write additional prizes have also been promised by Linden House, The Dog and Duck, Barnet Fayre, Mountfitchet Romeera Gym and JAM and even more prizes are anticipated. Tickets for the raffle are available from the Parish Office and Refinery. You may also be approached by one of the action group.

A Wine Tasting and Quiz evening is being held on Saturday 12 July in the Day Centre. Your host for the evening is Parish Councillor John O'Brien who some of you may remember as licensee of The Ash. John was also a wine specialist at the Duty Free shop at the airport for a number of years. Tickets for the evening are £12.00. Please try to get a team of 6-8 friends and neighbours but you can buy individual tickets. Again tickets are available from the Parish Office. Please do not plan to drive home as you are likely to be well over the limit after "tasting" John's selection of wines.

FOREST HALL SCHOOL STUDENT VOICE MEETING



A party of seven councillors and officers attended

a student voice meeting at Forest Hall School on Wednesday 30 May. They were there to listen to the views of the younger members of our community on all aspects of living and studying in Stansted. They raised a range of issues including road safety concerns, traffic congestion, free transport to school and recreation facilities. Councillors were impressed with the maturity of the students and the quality of their questioning

AIRPORT EXPRESS SET DOWN DISCOUNT SCHEME

Residents of Stansted qualify for a discount of 75% which will be applied to the published tariff for stays up to a maximum of 15 minutes in the Express Set Down only, meaning registered discount scheme members will pay £0.50 up to 10 mins and £0.70 up to 15 mins. To get your discount card you need to complete an application form and return that to Empark, who manage the car parks, together with proof of ID. Full details, including terms and conditions, are detailed on the application form. To request an application form email customerservice@empark.es

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

Would you like to help shape your NHS in west Essex? West Essex Clinical Commissioning group want more people to get involved in their many different programmes. They want to give people who have experienced health service provision in the area a voice in the decision making process that impacts on the health care they deliver for us. Volunteers will be required to make some commitment but in return, the communities you represent will have a voice that could have real influence. They are looking for people to take on a number of different roles and it would be good to have people representing the Stansted community. If you want to find our more and feel that you have what we need to reach deep into our communities, then please contact them to get more details.

Communications and engagement
West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group
Building 4, Spencer Close
St Margaret's Hospital
Epping, CM16 6TN

Tel: 01992 566140 Email: weccg.comms@nhs.net

THE CAB DISABILITY BENEFITS HOME VISIT TEAM NEEDS YOU!

Uttlesford CAB is looking for volunteers to join their Disability Benefits Home Visit team. This specialised service operates across the district offering continuity of care, confidentiality and reassurance for those living with long-term conditions. Volunteers help with the often complex applications for Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and the new Personal Independent Payment (PIP). They also provide advice on financial issues or care needs such as purchasing aids and appliances, getting a blue badge, or lowering fuel bills.

Members of the team need to commit to a minimum of three hours a week and have access to a car. Full training is given and travel expenses are paid. One volunteer said, "Being a volunteer in the disability benefits team feels like a privilege. I can use many of the skills developed during my working life, and really help people to express the problems they are facing. And the positive feedback evident in the success rate of my clients is an added bonus. The role is also flexible and can be easily adapted to fit in with my life."

If you are interested in joining the team and would like to know more, please call us on 01799 618840, email volunteer@uttlesfordcab.org.uk or visit www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk for further details and an application form. The team often works with clients who have been referred by health professionals or the social services, but if you, or someone you know, might benefit from this service please call 01799 618840. Our general team can cover questions on benefit-related issues but can pass you onto the Home Visit team if their help is needed.

FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Councillor Alan Dean writes:

The district-wide Local Plan was approved on April 8th by only 23 votes in favour, which is only one vote over half of the council membership of 44 councillors. One councillor who voted for it said it is not a good plan, but he wants a government inspector to decide whether it is sound and fit for being adopted next year. Others said that agreeing any plan for de-

velopment in Uttlesford between now and 2031 would be better than having further delay to agree a better plan. None of this bodes well for the inspector declaring the plan to be sound at the forthcoming public inspection. If the plan is found unsound, the council will be told to improve it. Then there will be real delay whilst the next council sorts it out after the May 2015 local elections.

Important concerns for Stansted's future came to light just before the April council meeting. The plan contains fewer than 250 new homes in Stansted parish, but proposes almost 3,000 at Elsenham. The Elsenham total includes 2,100 to the east of the railway station. The developer and the council have been claiming for years that road traffic from this new settlement would travel southwards (to Bishop's Stortford and the M11) via the Four Ashes traffic lights at Takeley to avoid Stansted's Grove Hill lights and worsening congestion through the centre of our village.

Essex Highways has now pulled the rug from under that shaky theory by admitting that drivers won't add 5 miles to their journey to Stortford and will want to drive through Stansted. So they have suggested a link road from the Elsenham-Stansted road across the fields by the wildlife park to the top of High Lane and Cambridge Road in Stansted. This will simply shift the traffic from Lower Street to Cambridge Road. According to Essex, it will solve "severe" traffic congestion at Grove Hill but will not create "severe" traffic congestion along Cambridge Road. I remain to be convinced. There is also a looming "severe" problem at junction 8 on the M11 aggravated by the developments proposed by UDC at Elsenham. Money is needed to improve the junction.

Worse still, there is a fear that the main Elsenham proposal by Fairfield will not be big enough to pay for these infrastructure improvements. In which case, no one should be surprised if the prospective developer comes back with a request to increase the size of "Hellsenham" to way above 3,000 homes. But that may mean a bypass would be needed round the north and also the west of Stansted. That will lead to demands for development on the enclosed land - again at Bentfield Green, behind Blythwood Gardens, etc. etc. to help pay the enormous bill for the bypass.

My predictions will seem like scaremongering to some people, but they flow from the consequences of a Local Plan that has no strategic foundation to guide where housing is best located. The Local Plan is made up of an ad hoc collection of individual land-owner proposals for housing but few acceptable solutions for dealing with access to them. In my opinion, the plan does not meet the tests of soundness.

You have until 5 p.m. on Monday June 2nd to tell Uttlesford District Council and the government's planning inspector whether you think this plan is sound and worthy of being adopted.

The good news this month is the ditching of the idea for Farnham primary school to be closed and its children removed to refurbished premises at the old St. Mary's primary school in St. John's Road. Essex CC now needs to produce a new solution to the looming shortage of primary school places in Stansted.

SIR ALAN HASELHURST SURGERY DATES

27 June Village Hall - Boreham 5.15 pm
 27 June Town Council Offices - Dunmow 6.30 pm
 11 July Guildhall - Thaxted 5.45 pm
 11 July The Old Armoury - Saffron Walden 7.00 pm

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

18 June - Full Council
 25 June - Open Spaces
 9 July - Full Council
 23 July - Highways & Finance and General Purposes

CONTACT DETAILS

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

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Margaret Ambrose 814675
 maggielincoln@aol.com
 Maureen Caton 813914
 (Chairman) m.caton@hotmail.co.uk
 Catherine Dean 813579
 catherinemarydean@btinternet.com
 Samantha Dunn 810859
 samanthadunn@talktalk.net

Jo Freeman 812524
 j.freeman195@yahoo.com
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 John Hudson 814489
 john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
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 peter@lowerstreet.com
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 Johnedobrien@gmail.com
 Frances Richards 812748
 frannie.richards@gmail.com
 John Salmon 814789
 sam@salmonfamily.me.uk
 John Savopoulos 817687
 johnsav8@gmail.com
 Geoffrey Sell 815925
 (Vice Chairman) sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
 Valerie Trundle 813433
 prtvt@btinternet.com

Uttlesford District Council Members

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

Essex County Council Member

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

Member of Parliament

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

Police - PC Tom Bastendorff
 Non-emergency 101
 PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07889 702340

Neighbourhood Watch
 www.stanstednhw.org.uk

Parish Public Transport Representatives

Valerie Trundle - 813433
 Joy Thomas - 813871

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Email:kewest@btinternet.com
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbow Tots (age 1½-rising 3)	Tina South Tel: 814371
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 07736 616665/01799 543466	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david.r.brown1 @btinternet.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Inner Wheel Club	Shirley Fordyce, President Tel: 758289	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
NCT	Anna Sedgbeer Tel: 812257		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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THE MAN BEHIND THE NAME

PALMER CLOSE

Palmer Close was named after Frederick Palmer, Head Foreman at Rochfords Nurseries. He worked there for over 45 years; from the time he left school until the nurseries closed, before going on to work for Canford Engineering at Stansted Airport until he retired at the age of 65.

Freddie or Fred, as he was known came from Worthing, was sent to Dr Barnardo's at the age of two and was subsequently fostered by the Shepherds from Rochford Cottages in Stoney Common. He was very happy with the Shepherds and considered them his family for the rest of his life. He married Gladys from Hazel End (who always called him Rick) in St Mary's Church Farnham just as war broke out in 1939. They had to bring the wedding forward three days as the best man was using his coach to help transport the first troops. When the new houses were built at Churchill Corner the Palmers moved up there from Rochford Cottages in Stoney Common, along with other nursery employees. His two

daughters, Susan and Angela. remember going up to the nurseries on summer evenings and weekends to help their father open or close the ventilation windows in the greenhouses, and working up there in the school holidays to earn pocket money.

In his younger days Mr Palmer was quite a sportsman, playing football first for Bishop's Stortford then Stansted. He was a member of the local cricket team (team captain in the late 40s) and later on he became a keen bowls player.



He was also a volunteer fireman (pictured centre above), and when he died at the age of 85 the fire brigade formed a guard of honour at his funeral; an arch of axes for the coffin to pass through on its way out of St John's Church. His ashes were scattered and buried in the banking at the edge of the greens at Stansted Bowling Club. A fitting resting

place for a man who not only worked hard in and for the community, but who supported local sport too.



Yvonne Ayres
*With thanks to Sue Ingram
and Angela Camp for their help*

If a road in Stansted has been named after a member of your family, please contact the Editor.

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

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Two new members joined us in April making our membership over 50 again and nicely filling the Day Centre - no-one complains of being cold any more! Our Speaker, Colin Street, gave us a fascinating talk and presentation on Charles Dickens, highlighting the many different addresses that he had connections with. Charles Dickens was born in 1812 in Portsmouth but they moved to London and then Chatham Docks where his father was a Navy Pay Officer. Sadly on returning to London he was put in Marshalsea jail for debtors, so Charles had to work as a child in a blacking factory. It is extraordinary to think that one of the world's most prolific writers should have come from that background. He married at the age of 24 and his wife, Catherine, bore him 10 children, but it was not a happy union and he had a young mistress for many years; how did he find time to write! Colin Street does many walks around London taking in the places relating to Charles Dickens and we hope to do one of these. Members were encouraged to stand for the new Committee which will be formed in May when we hold our AGM.

This is proving to be a busy month for us; we were pleased to provide a buffet supper for the Parish Council Reception on 2nd, which was a lovely evening. It's good to meet all the people who in some way add to life here in Stansted, running clubs and societies and of course standing on the Parish Council itself. We are also hosting a tea-party for 37 visiting WI members on 7th - they came last year so we must do something right! We are also having a boat trip from Broxbourne with a ploughman's - or should that be boatman's - lunch on board! On 12th June 7.45pm in the Day Centre, our Speaker will be Keith Lovell talking about 'History Through Essex Foods'. Visitors are welcome.



Judy Colliver
President
Tel: 812470

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

The next meeting is on Thursday 19th June at 2.00pm in St John's Hall. Nick Thomas is talking about his life as a free-lance comedy writer. Last month's AGM resulted in new Committee members and we warmly welcome them. Maggie and Jan stepped down as Trustees, so huge thanks go to them for their hard work which will continue as they will carry on organising the trips and outings.

Saturday Seminar 28th June 9.30am-12.30pm

The subject at our next seminar in the Free Church Hall is 'Western Christian Art - the Beginnings' led by Jo Brook. Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members from Alan Wheeler on 07790 213510 or email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com.

Scotland Trip

Off to the Scottish Highlands for our five day trip, we arrived in Loch Awe in the evening and were warmly greeted by Ally Wharff. The hotel was a splendid place, with a castle feel to it with beautifully carved doors and ceilings but with all the mod cons and excellent, friendly staff. Our first outing was a relaxing boat trip on Loch Lomond with a brilliant, enter-



taining commentary. After lunch at Loch Long we then went on to explore Inverary. In the evening we had a Scottish Ceilidh and Phil, dressed in his kilt, demonstrated traditional dances. We visited a Sea Life Sanctuary where we saw rescued otters and seals being fed and later saw the peak of Ben Nevis as we travelled to spend a few hours in Fort



William. On our last day we crossed to Seil, a delightful little island which used to be famous for its slate quarries, crossing a 200 year-old bridge called Atlantic Bridge because America would be the next port of call.

Finally, we spent time looking around Oban. During our stay we enjoyed a Burns Evening with traditional haggis, Scottish dancing and Tossing the Caber, when our own Ann threw the furthest! On the way home we raffled a donated Easter Egg for the Stansted Defibrillator Fund. Finally, deep felt thanks to Jan and Maggie for all the hard work they put in to give us such a brilliant holiday.

For more information please contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304. Watch out for details of new activities at our meetings or visit the website.



Caroline Bore



We had a very lively breakfast meeting on 2nd May with some excellent speakers - Victoria Travers from Wine2trade and Penny Stephens from Inflight. They gave us a very good insight into the secrets of the wine trade including how wine is taxed. It was interesting to hear about the flights that Inflight operate locally and that they have become one of the largest privately owned facilities of its kind in the United Kingdom. Thank you to everyone who attended the breakfast, as again we had a really good turnout. We would like to wish one of our members, Sue Richardson from Millway Stationers, good luck as she will be going on her Moon Walk to raise money for a very worthwhile charity. We have now delivered our Stansted Business Forum members' directory to the whole village. Two of our members, Barney Miller of The Design Mill and Samantha Hartmann of JAM, designed and printed the directory which is part of our 'Think Local, Buy Local' campaign. We have had some good feedback from our members on the extra business being generated and raising brand awareness. We have also just celebrated our first anniversary, and what a year this has been. We now have over 60 members with a wide range of businesses and bookings for our monthly breakfast meetings at Linden House which are full. We did not realise that there were so many local businesses and are pleased with the response we have had. Our website was designed by one of our members, Fintan Lambe of Popcorn Web Design and has proved very popular. We have some very excellent testimonials from people that have used the services of our members. One really exciting development has been that members use each other's services, which has helped to increase their trade. Our approach is 'home-grown first'. So keep up the good work everyone and buy local to support your local businesses.

Finally we are organising our second Summer Fayre which is on Saturday 5th July in Station Road 12 noon-5.00pm. This is a lively and fun event for all the family with lots of stalls and music to keep everyone happy. Put this date in your diary to come along and bring your friends. If you would like to book a stall for the fayre please contact Peter James at Murdochs on 813318 or email me on Stanstedsummerfayre@yahoo.co.uk. Don't delay in booking your stall so that you get the best pitch.



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LAST MONTH IN THE NEWS ...

Parents and pupils were celebrating in May after governors at Farnham Primary voted to save the school on its current site and rejecting a move to Stansted. **Stansted National Childbirth Trust (NCT)** held what could be its last event in May. Spokeswoman Kay Odysseos said "Without new volunteers, the branch cannot continue and has had to scale back activities." **SXConnect** have made 'minor timetable revisions to the ... 509/510 Stansted/Stortford/Harlow service. The revised timetable shows Stansted residents, schoolchildren and airport workers now have only three buses running between 7.30am and 9.30am where previously there had been three per hour. Check www.airportbybus.com and bus stops for new times.

Village News

The family-friendly 'Music in the Park' festival returns to Bentfield Primary School for its 13th year on Saturday 28th June. Confirmed acts so far include several tribute bands and Stortford folk band '27 Strings'. Tickets are £12 in advance at Intercounty in Stansted. Stansted village grew by 3000 – that's almost 23% - between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. One resident, quoting the figures in opposition to the Pines Hill development project, which has been turned down by Uttlesford District Council, noted that this was 'more than three times the growth of England at 7.3% and even more than Bishop's Stortford. City and Country, the Bentfield Place property developer is also set for significant growth and is seeking to appoint four new recruits to its graduate trainee programme. Stansted Lunch Group celebrated its 100th meeting in May.

Source: *Herts and Essex Observer*

FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 21st June at The Cock, Silver Street. Families welcome 3.00pm-7.00pm with BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting, tattoos and outside bar. Adults only 8.30pm-midnight with three bands playing inside the Pub. Donation to Huw Johnson Club.

Paul Salmon

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PILOTS

Our April session was not only packed with exciting events, but also involved planning for the forthcoming special service to promote the work of Pilots (a national organisation) on Sunday 22nd June in the Free Church, to which all are invited. Children have been rehearsing an action story 'Jesus calms the storm' with Nicola Grieves.



They pretend to battle with the parachute-aided waves and practice dance moves to the tune 'Jesus - hero of the world', and rehearsed Michelle King's new song. Two activities were lined up ahead of the service - origami craft and planting red and white poppy seeds in tiny pots which will be displayed. The Club will meet on Mondays 9th June and 14th July 6.00pm-7.30pm in the Free Church Hall, and on Saturday 21st June there will be a rehearsal for the service in the church. Regular updates of the Club's activities are on www.facebook.com/pages/Stansted-Pilots. Any children aged five years and above are welcome to join Pilots on one Monday every month. If you are interested please contact Valerie Trundle on 813433 or email me.

Sanjukta Ghosh

Email: sanjukta@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

SO YOU THINK THE ROADS WERE BAD LAST WINTER!

'We Fynde that ther is within the paryshe of Stansted Monffychet [Stansted Mountfitchet] within the cowntyte off Essex a serten bregge ledynge to Bysshoppes Sterfforde [Bishop's Stortford] which doth anoye the quenes majesties leage people so that they can nat passe from marcat {market} but they arlluke to be drowned and yt is to be made bye the honorable Erle off Oxefforde and the warden of Oxfforde deserynge your honorable and worshyppes all to se a redress in the same ffor it hathe beane oft tymes put up and no remedye Fownde ther in'

And we sertyffye your honorable and worshyppes all ye other thynges as farre as we can understande ar well and we knowe no man disobedyant.

From the Essex Record Office Sessions Rolls Michaelmas 1562

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**STANSTED
MOUNTFITCHET
WINDMILL**

Our Easter openings were mixed, not too many visitors; we did however sell more souvenirs than usual. I hope I will be reporting May to be a good month with five openings. We have plans for another Afternoon Tea which was very successful last year, but more about that next time. We have two new Committee members who have some fresh ideas for new events, one of which is detailed below. Unfortunately our current Secretary has had to stand down for personal reasons and we are desperately looking for someone to fill that role. Whilst in the past we have been well served by lovely lady secretaries, the position could equally be filled by a male. Anyone interested who is willing to assist should contact me or our Chairman Derek Honour on 647213. The windmill will be open on Sunday 1st June 1.30pm-5.30pm.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768

Stansted Windmill Cooking Show

I am holding a Pampered Chef Cooking Show to help raise funds for the Stansted Windmill at the Day Centre on Friday 20th June at 7.30pm. There is a £3 entry fee which will include a glass of wine, and there will be a demonstration of the wonderful products with the opportunity to join in a head to head Trifle Challenge! You will also be able to sample tasty dishes and try out the products on display. If you would like more information or to book tickets please contact me. I look forward to seeing you there.

Amber Collingwood
Pampered Chef Consultant & Windmill Committee Member
Tel: 07728 550003
Email: collingwoodamber@yahoo.com

CHILDREN'S RECIPE

Spinach & Ricotta Bites

- 120g fresh white breadcrumbs
- 250g frozen spinach (defrosted and drained)
- 150g ricotta cheese
- 1 medium egg beaten
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 lemon grated zest
- 500g passata
- grated parmesan cheese
- salt and pepper to taste

Method

Combine the breadcrumbs, spinach, ricotta, egg, nutmeg and lemon zest in one large bowl.
Season with salt and pepper.
Make sure all ingredients are mixed well together.
Roll the mixture into balls and put into an ovenproof dish.
Pour over the passata and sprinkle with parmesan.
Cook for 15-20 minutes on 150°C until cooked through and piping hot.
Serve with any type of pasta.

Simone Teese
Stansted Kiddy Cook
Tel: 07837 008715



**STANSTED
BOWLING
CLUB**

Perrin Rose Bowl Our first Club competition took place on Saturday 26th April and the well-deserved winner (who kept his cool in the final) was Dave Hunt; well done, Dave.

Bowling for Beginners Week was very well attended and has brought forward eight new members to the Club, so we welcome you all and hope you have an enjoyable season.



Photo by Sean Clark

Daniel Robinson Game against Elsenham, where we came second; now looking forward to return leg in August.

Seniors League The first game was cancelled by North Weald due to the weather. Next game against Saffron Walden at home brought an 8-2 win to Stansted – congratulations for a good start to the season.

North West Essex League A Team Lost 8-0 to Steeple Bumpstead, **B Team** won 6-2 against Saffron Walden – it's early days, so good luck in all your future matches.

Ladies Friendlies First two matches cancelled due to bad weather.

County Games are all getting under way now. Stansted ladies had a convincing win in the triples against Dunmow and are now looking forward to the next round, well done ladies. Men's competitions will begin end of May/ beginning of June so good luck to all. Please feel free to call in should you wish to see us in action!! - you will be made very welcome.

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



Saturday 21st June at 7.30pm Saffron Hall

Accompanied by the Will Todd Ensemble and conducted by Janet Wheeler, Saffron Walden Choral Society will perform Wheeler's *On the Breath of the Sky* and Todd's *Mass in Blue*, his flagship work. SWCS is pleased to be joined for this by SignuptoSing, Saffron Walden's Youth Choir. Tickets £16 and £20 (with concessions) and are available from the Saffron Walden Tourist Office on 01799 524002 or at www.saffronhall.com and on the door (subject to availability).

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FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Stop Press ...

Students from 9A together with students from Year 7 and Year 10 took part in FHS's first BBC School Report Day. Having spent lesson time learning how to pull together news stories, interviews and online news the students used their skills to produce some exciting news on the day. Abigail Fourie, recently chosen to represent England at the World Scout Jamboree, was interviewed about the challenging selection process; Mrs Smith and Mrs Butler were grilled by our reporters on the causes and effects of autism in young people; local businesses were able to voice their opinion on the forthcoming Tour de France and we also had a dash up to the airport to report on the Job Fair at the invitation of Stansted Airport's Community Team.



These are just a few of the stories that were worked upon - you will be pleased to know that the obligatory weather report was also included (and filmed during a spectacular hailstorm - well done Harry and Toby!) The students not only developed their writing and speaking and listening skills during the day but also demonstrated strong leadership, time management and project management skills as they were responsible for the gathering, production and editing of the news. Filming skills were also a key part of the day with some budding BBC camera-men and women now in residence at Forest Hall Road. Parents and carers can view the results of the day by either going to the BBC School Report website and finding us on the interactive map, or by looking at the school website itself where you will now find a link on the front page.

Mrs Boggis
Head of Communications

Year 7 Modern Languages Spelling Bee

In April four students from Year 7 participated in the Regional Finals of the National Modern Languages Spelling Bee. To get to this stage, which took place at Comberton Village College, Cambridge, the four girls, Erin Langer, Ruby Owen, Mami Seck and Kaysie Perraton, had already seen off competition from the rest of their class in the school rounds. For each stage of the competition, students had to learn 50 words in French from a set list covering Year 7 topics. The Regional Final was Stage Three, so the girls had been hard at work learning 150 words. At the competition, each competitor had to sit with his or her back to a screen, on which their words appeared, facing the audience. The aim was to spell as many words as possible in one minute. Words were randomly selected by a computer programme. Participants had to use the French alphabet and include accents, hyphens and apostrophes in French too. For each

heat, the room was packed with spectators, so there was a very tense atmosphere! In all, there were 96 competitors for French, with only four places available for the National Finals. Sadly, our four girls were not among the four winners but they performed brilliantly. We were very proud of them, not only for their performance on the day but also for the hard work they put into practising, both at home and in the lunch hour. The two reserves, Jack Davis and Kieran Churchward also did extremely well in the earlier stages of the competition. It was a very enjoyable occasion, so much so, that one of the girls has asked for the next 50 words, which will be used in the National Final and has already volunteered to help next year's Year 7 students!

Mrs T Huckerby

Car Boot Sale

Sunday 8th June 11.00am-2.00pm. Sellers can set up from 10.00am. Pitches are £7.00 for a car and £12 for a van/truck. There is no need to pre-book, but anyone is very welcome to call Elaine Terry on 07962 586825 or Sam Fairweather on 07711 443259 if they have any questions. Delicious refreshments are always on offer - freshly made bacon sandwiches and mouth-watering homemade cakes. We will also be holding another Car Boot on Sunday 13th July if you are unable to make the one in June.

Danielle Garwood
Student and Community Administrator
Tel: 813384



The result of a remarkable partnership between Saffron Walden County High School and the Yellow Car Charitable Trust, Saffron Hall is a state-of-the-art, 730-seat venue boasting an exceptional adjustable acoustic and equipment to match. Designed by the Tooley and Foster Partnership with acoustics by Paul Gillieron, Saffron Hall is a highly flexible, high-spec performance space with a series of dual-use front of house and backstage areas. Angela Dixon is the new Director, having joined Saffron Hall in March from London's Barbican where she was Head of Music.

Summer Programme of Concerts at 7.30pm:

Saturday 7th June Uttlesforde Orchestra (see page 15)
Dvořák Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky Symphony no 5
Saturday 21st June Saffron Walden Choral Society
Todd, Mass in Blue (see page 31)
Saturday 28th June Tasmin Little and Piers Lane
Schubert, Ferguson, Ravel, Strauss
Saturday 5th July A Hilliard Songbook
Cornysh to Arvo Pärt
Saturday 19th July Aurora Orchestra
Jitterbug with Man Overboard
Friday 25th July The Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal 75th
Anniversary Concert
Saturday 30th August Benjamin Grosvenor
Mendelssohn, Schumann, Ravel, Mompou
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A nightingale, a glass of madeira, nut brown ale and the Yeomen of England all featured in our last month's meeting! They made their appearance in a brilliant programme performed by Mr Rex Freeman and his accompanist Rosemary Wheeler. In the space of just 45 minutes, which sadly flew by all too quickly, Mr Freeman sang extracts from 'Merrie England', the beautiful 'Nightingale sang in Berkley Square', Fianders and Swann's 'Have some Madeira m'dear'. 'Old Father Thames' and 'Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner' were also in his repertoire of patriotic songs celebrating England. He also read very touchingly extracts from Bill Bryson's 'England my England'. An afternoon celebrating England wouldn't be complete without some Shakespeare and he quoted an extract from the Bard very effectively. He rounded off a brilliant programme with a song about our national flower, the rose - not 'Rose of England' but a song from the musical 'Mac and Mable', 'I won't send roses'. So all in all, another brilliant afternoon and one that I for one would have been sorry to have missed. The afternoon ended with our usual refreshments - no madeira, but a good cup of tea! If this sounds like your cup of tea why not come and join us one afternoon? You would be most welcome. We meet at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Other subjects on the horizon include the work of a Children's Hospice in June, the workings of a horse sanctuary in July, the protection of hedgehogs in August, and a talk on fair trade with stall in September. So a lot for our members to look forward to!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

The re-carpeting of the main pavilion area and Stage 1 of the bar refurbishment have been completed. Junior outdoor training began again on 5th May; there was a very good turnout of youngsters. The Club is arranging a senior tour to Dorset for 23rd-27th June. Any former or retired players interested in joining the tour as player, umpire or scorer would be most welcome. The Club got off to a good start on 3rd May with both XIs winning their first matches of the new league season. Senior home fixtures for June are:

Sat 7 th 1330	2 nd XI v Bishop's Stortford IV
Sun 8 th 1400	Sun XI v Molehill Green
Sat 14 th 1330	1 st XI v Ilford Catholics I
Sun 15 th 1400	Sun XI v North Weald
Sat 21 st 1330	2 nd XI v South Loughton II
Sat 28 th 1330	1 st XI v Theydon Bois I
Sun 29 th 1330	Sun XI v Little Hallingbury

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



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509
Email: dchedge49@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The season was finally completed on schedule by the end of April despite the awful wet weather throughout the winter months. This caused all clubs to play up to three fixtures a week; although the players had to reschedule work commitments, our final league position was an improvement on the year before. Over the season, naturally, there were highs and lows. We enjoyed hard fought victories in the FA Vase and Essex Senior Cup despite losing one of our players to a horrific leg break injury at Haringey. Our thoughts and support are with Chris Siggins as he begins the long road to recovery and we look forward to seeing him play for the Club again.

After the final game, manager Dave Roach announced that having spent two seasons building up the squad, it was time to hand over the managerial reins to someone else. Therefore, the Club moved quickly to appoint Paul Attfield to the position of First Team Manager. Having guided Royston Town to successful championship promotions, Paul will bring a level of knowledge in coaching and management which will push the Club further along the road of progression. As a local man, Paul had previous connections to the Club, having been one of the founder managers of Stansted Juniors, and attended the Presentation Evening.



Congratulations to both Gary Rowntree and James Blackaby who picked up the awards as Committee and players' player of the year - both thoroughly deserved. Finally, arrangements for pre-season training are being made for any new players who wish to join the Club. Trials begin in early July - full details will be given in next month's article, or see our social media websites.

Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842
Email: stanstedfc@yahoo.co.uk

MANUDEN SINGERS

14th Village Glyndebourne Sunday 20th July

Our traditional Summer Picnic Concert with a light-hearted programme in the Gardens of Wilford House, 70 The Street, Manuden. Gates open 6.00pm, concert at 6.30pm. Entry by programme £10 (£5 children) on the gate, or in advance by phone 812157. If wet or cold, we shall repair to the Church (with picnics!). All proceeds to St Clare Hospice.

Ian Priest



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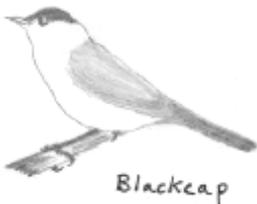
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The arrival of summer visitors such as swallows and swifts is a sign that summer is round the corner. This year the swallows in High Lane were seen on 12th April which is particularly early. The swifts arrived later at the end of the month. There is another group of birds which is far less conspicuous and also migrates here from regions in Africa - the warblers. These are small insect-eating birds and they travel thousands of miles to breed here and find a plentiful supply of insects during the summer months. They include willow warblers, garden warblers, reed warblers and blackcaps



Blackcap

from tropical and southern Africa, the whitethroat from just south of the Sahara and chiffchaff from southern Europe and Africa. These birds are shy and unobtrusive, often flitting about in dense foliage in a shrub or tree. They are so well camouflaged that they can be difficult to spot, but their song will give away their presence (although even then you may not see them). When they are courting at the start of the breeding season the males will claim their territory and try to attract females by their song. Warblers are noted, not for their colourful plumage, but for their musical singing. The garden warbler, blackcap and particularly the willow warbler have a liquid song. The reed warbler like the nightingale can sing during the night. By September all these birds will be leaving again for their winter quarters, although some blackcaps (which are more able to endure the cold and can survive on berries) overwinter in the south-west of England. Migration takes place during the night as the search for food is the main priority during daylight hours. It is likely the birds orientate themselves by using the stars.

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Rosina Kirkwood
Tel: 816916

HELPLINE

STANSTED'S COMMUNITY CARE SCHEME

I am writing this article in order to dispel some confusion that I believe has arisen as a result of two items appearing in last month's The Link, entitled 'Volunteer Vacancies' and 'Community Cars', within the Stansted Network news items. I believe that both these items relate to the same scheme operated by the Royal Voluntary Service and I would stress that it is not connected in any way to our own Helpline, which has been operating so successfully in Stansted for the last 30 years (more on that momentous anniversary in a future edition of The Link!). Helpline asks for users of the scheme to make a contribution to our drivers towards the cost of petrol at set rates, eg £1 for trips within the village, £3 to Bishop's Stortford etc – thus, our minimum charge is just £1.

I hope this serves to reassure anyone who thought that we had suddenly put our prices up!

Francine Cope
Chairman
Tel: 814562

Stansted such a prosperous village

What would be considered to be Stansted's finest period? The year 1215 when Richard de Montfitchet was one of the 25 Barons who forced King John to add his seal to the Magna Carta? Or the English civil war in 1640 when Stansted, led by Timothy Middleton, was part of the great parliamentary effort in Essex to overthrow the King? Or our part in the Second World War when American planes from Stansted played a crucial role in the bombing of the German defences on D-Day? There are arguments on both sides, but Peter Saunders gave a presentation on Stansted in 1850 up to WW1, in other words the latter part of the Victorian period, when Stansted was described as a flourishing go-ahead village and known as politically radical. In the agricultural depression Stansted thrived economically, culturally through entertainment, and also in sport. In 1882, the Central Hall was built on Chapel Hill to provide a place for public meetings and for the reading room and library of the newly founded Stansted Literary Institution. The Observer stated at its grand opening that "It represents the spirit of Enterprise". St John's (our second church) was built, as well as the Alms Houses; we had our own local Stansted gas company and water company; the Mica factory employed 300 staff; Rochford nurseries 150 hands; Charles Spencer and Sons, who had the Maltings, 150 men; and Joshua Green and Company, the department store, who were said to sell everything from a pin to an elephant and employed scores of men and women. In 1902 Kelly's directory had 115 commercial entries. It was noted that Stansted at this time was a most charming neighbourhood with a number of gentlemen's houses. We had the Fuller-Maitlands at Stansted Hall, the Gilbey family at Hargrave House and Elsenham Hall, Charles Gold of The Limes and James Blyth of Blythwood House, the Pulteneys of Hargrave Park, Sir Thomas Jackson of Stansted House, as well as Gilbert Alder, the Goslings and the Greens. But could Ebenezer Ault have been correct - if there was one factor more than any other that accounted for Stansted's increase in prosperity it was the railway. From the first train in July 1845, that ran from London to Ely, to the present, it is thought to have been the railway that has brought us the population and the resources to be what we are today.

The year has come to an end for the History Society; the new programme will be published in The Link when it is available. Thank you to all who have supported us this year

Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

ST MARY'S ELSENHAM FABRIC FUND

A reminder of our exhibition at Elsenham Village Fête and Craft Fair on Saturday 14th June 1.00pm-5.00pm on the Playing Field. See pictures of our fundraising events and the projects we have spent the money on.

John L Segar
Vice Chairman
Tel: 813289

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UNINVITED GUEST

There's a newcomer to our table, an uninvited guest
Turned up one day last week in his Sunday Best
Scared off all our little ones he made such a fuss
Arriving out of the blue with a swoop and a cuss

He's become a regular visitor at our board
There at breakfast time to feast like a Lord
Big, bold and bossy he likes to strut his stuff
Using bully-boy tactics he's really rather rough



His table manners leave a lot to be desired
He's greedy, gobbling up all the food he can find
And if the fare's too tough for his taste
He's not averse to dunking – 'til it's a mushy paste
When the table's empty he has the cheek to complain
Loudly banging on the door 'til it's filled up again

No amount of shooing sends him away
He's brave and brazen, not afraid to have his say
We've grown quite fond of our bully bird all the same
Watching his antics is an entertaining game
But today he missed his breakfast so we're on a quest
To bring back our big, bad crow – our uninvited guest

Loki



During the first half of the summer term the children are concentrating on our garden area, planting seeds and growing vegetables. Everyone planted a sunflower seed to take home and photograph as it grows. We also planted radishes and salad leaves, which we are looking forward to eating very soon! We celebrated St George's Day on 23rd April by making swords and shields, which the children were allowed to take home. Our older children have been enjoying Monday morning Lunch Club. Nursery stays open for a longer session and the children bring in a packed lunch, which we all eat together. This helps them prepare for the longer days when they start 'big' school in September. Our busy nursery bear, Barnaby, has been continuing his travels, visiting Sydney, Barcelona, Paris, Lanzarote, Centerparcs, Alton Towers and even the Latitude Festival!

Birchanger Nursery is a highly respected local preschool facility in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. In our beautiful rural setting and well-equipped building we provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit call 810800, email admin@birchangernursery.org or see www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery. We are currently full for September but if you would like to reserve a place on our waiting list please contact us as soon as possible, as waiting list spaces do occasionally become available. Places are still available for September 2015 but are running out fast.

Katherine Aiken
The Committee



BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

Did you know there is a Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers as part of the Livery Companies of London? In 1371 it gained control over the trade of wax chandlery and in 1484 was granted a Royal Charter by King Richard III. There is still the Wax Chandlers Hall in Gresham Street in the City, which has been owned by them for over 500 years. Wax candles became increasingly important in the 14th and 15th centuries as religious ceremonies became more elaborate and churches were lit 24 hours a day. There were also by-products of candles in the form of wax seals and tablets (wax coated ones, not Apples!). Whereas other Livery company products have declined (coopers, skimmers), wax products have become more popular in cosmetics, polishes, waterproofing, cheese coating, anti-friction coating in scuba diving, surfing, skiing, snowboarding and archery. In fact there are now over 500 uses for wax in other products.



The Wax Chandlers have also been active in supporting an apprenticeship scheme developed by bee farmers, offering advice and guidance, and supporting under-privileged young people who may wish to take this route. Most importantly, they award a prize to the Master Beekeeper who has achieved the highest mark in their beekeeping exams, and this is presented every year at a posh lunch held at the Hall. A little known part of their work is their affiliation with the 5th Battalion of Rifles and the Royal Navy's HMS Protector. So join our Association and you could aspire to become the country's top Master Beekeeper and be presented with your prize at the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers at their annual lunch. One of the 19 people that have recently completed our Beginners Course could be well on the way to such an accolade!



John Dockerill
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	High House Montessori Nursery	16	Duncan's decorating	32	
	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	8	Lesley Anne (Decorating)	32	
	Muisc Lessons	8	MWR Interiors	32	
	Rainbow Pre-School	18	Perfect Plastering	32	
	Monique's Childminding	8	Ray Morton (Decorating)	36	
	St Nicholas School	16	Shutes Painting & Decorating	24	
	Tuition	12	T F Plastering	32	
	Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	34	Personal Services	
Ethical Electrical		34	Beauty Barn	10	
Stansted Electric		34	Cambridge Weight Plan	8	
Financial & Legal	Greenways Financial Planning	18	Essential Gem	10	
	Lever & Co Solicitors	18	George Cooper (Physiotherapy)	24	
	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC	R Handford (Chiropody)	10	
	Tees Financial	18	Julie Golden (Chiropody)	8	
Food & Lodging	Chimneys Guest House	26	Lower Street Clinic	6	
	China Garden and Ho Fish & Chips	IBC	Stansted Chiropractic	6	
	Gianni's Pizzas	12	Stansted Psychotherapy	10	
	Pocknell Food Co	12	Tracey's Beauty & Holistic	8	
	33 Harrisons B & B	12	Williams (Osteopath)	6	
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	18	Pilates		
	J Day & Son	36	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6	
	D C Poulton & Sons	18	Tone Pilates	6	
Garden Supplies, Services & Floral	N W Brown (Landscapes)	38	Photography	28	
	Cox Farm & Forestry	26	Printing	32	
	Crystal Clear Ponds	24	Property Services		
	GWB Horticulture	FC	Bareham Overy (Architects)	38	
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC	Bishop's Stortford Guttering	26	
	H2O Plants	OBC	Clifford Builidng Services	36	
	Steve Hall Garden Services	38	Garden & Property Maintenance	36	
	Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	FC	Gower Design & Build	36	
	Mayfair Ponds	FC	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	38	
	Mowtivated	38	David Fortune (Builder)	26	
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	38	Rodings Drainage	36	
	Stadium Turf Supply	38	Todd Welding & Fabrication	36	
	The Secret Gardener	38	Unique Construction	36	
	Uppercut Trees	38	Woodside Builders	36	
	Hairdressing	Barnet Fayre	10	A C Wright Building Contractors	36
Lino Thomas		OBC	Family News (Londis)	30	
Nicky & Co		OBC	John Wilson Jeweller	30	
Hypnotherapy	Glynis Cheers	10	Sport		
	Helen Bartram	10	Travel		
			Will Writing		
			Elsenham Golf Club	28	
			Absolute Travel	IBC	
			Herts & Essex Wills	12	
			The Will Practice	IBC	

FC - Front cover IBC - Inside Back Cover OBC - Outside Back cover

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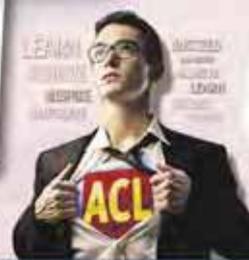
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