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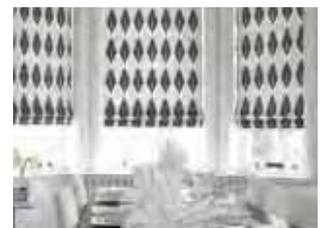
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by email (*preferred*), up to 300 words in a Word document, please, to:  
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk  
by **noon** on **11th March** for the April issue  
or by hand to:  
7 Blythwood Gardens,  
Stansted CM24 8HG  
by **noon** on **8th March** for the April issue

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**EDITORIAL**



Hopefully the worst of the weather is behind us, so now is an ideal time to dig out the walking shoes/boots and venture outside to enjoy the beautiful countryside in and around Stansted. There's a suggested route, not too taxing, on page 25 to get you started. Why not take a camera to capture your favourite views along the way and submit the best photo to The Link; we're always looking for different images for the front cover. On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March there's an opportunity for residents to have their say on village issues at the Annual Parish Meeting under the Open Forum, see page 19 for details. There is so much going on this year with all the Magna Carta celebrations; making a note of local events in the Village Diary, held in Stansted Library, will go a long way towards avoiding clashing dates. Is it purely coincidence that soon after the major supermarket groups announced a drop in profits, work to convert Barclays Bank to a Sainsburys seems to have ground to a halt?!

**CONTENTS**

Thought for the Month	2	Directory of Local Clubs	23
Church News	2-3	Stansted Stroll	25
Type 2 Diabetes	4	What's Happening at Rhodes ...	27
Steph's Wishes Afternoon Tea	4	Saffron Walden Choral Society	27
Dementia 'Time for a Cuppa'	4	Rainbow Pre-School	27
St Mary's Primary School	4	Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill	27
Village Events	5	Forest Hall School	29
Magna Carta 800	7	Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	29
Labour Party Coffee Morning	7	Evening with the 'Psychics'	29
Farnham Primary School	7	Wealden Cottage, Bentfield Green	31
The Place on the Hill	7	Vets and Cardboard Boxes	31
Birchanger Nursery	9	Stansted Cricket Club	31
Stansted Evening WI	9	Stansted Mountfitchet Local	
Mountfitchet House Care Home	9	History Society	33
For 'Crafty' Children	11	Manuden Singers	33
Film Review - 'The Imitation Game'	13	The Hundred Parishes Society	33
Nature Responds to Dog Mess	13	Easter Explained	33
Gardening Tips	13	Birchanger Wood	35
Ugley WI	13	Stansted Bowling Club	35
Mountfitchet Garden Club	14	Inner Wheel	35
Stansted Well Read	14	Castle Maltings - Our New	
Stansted Tennis Club	14	Health Centre	35
Stansted Hall & Elsenham		Nature or Nurture?	37
Cricket Club	14-15	Stansted Football Club	37
music@stansted	17	Nature Notes	37
Stansted Community First		The J's Hospice 'Christmas Carol'	39
Responders	17	News from Essex Police	39
Huw Johnson Club	17	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	39
Beekeeping	17	Did I Read That Sign Correctly?	39
<b>Stansted Network</b>	<b>19-22</b>	Index to Advertisers	40

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I have just seen the film based on the life of Stephen Hawking 'The Theory of Everything'. There are at least three strands to the film: Hawking's work as a cosmologist; his relationship with his wife; and the progression of the motor neurone disease that, among other things, has given him his distinctive computer generated voice. It is an incredible story. As a cosmologist, Hawking has been particularly concerned with how the universe began and exploring the mathematics that would be needed to explain the moment when time began. And he once famously said that if an equation could be written to encapsulate that moment then we would know the mind of God; although since then, he has repudiated that he has any belief in God. He has also sought to find a way to bring together the world of Newtonian physics (how the world works on the large scale) with quantum mechanics (how the world works at sub-atomic level) - the holy grail of modern physics - 'The Theory of Everything'. And while there is no doubt that he has added significantly to our understanding of our universe, the theory of everything still eludes scientists. I am no mathematician, but speaking with the mathematicians, one of the phrases that they use for some of the equations that are produced to explain our universe is that they are very elegant. We live in a very intelligible universe.

Just as much of the beauty we observe in the universe moves some of us to believe in God, so the elegance of the mathematics that is used to describe it also leads others to contemplate the reality of God, although not everyone sees it that way. We can never prove that God exists, any more than we can simply read the creation stories in the Bible as giving a scientific understanding of how the universe came into being. Yet for some of us, the more we know about the marvel of our universe, the more we are led to delight in the giftedness of creation, and then the more we are lost in the wonder of God, origin and upholder of all that exists.



Rev'd Roy Fowler  
Minister of Stansted Free Church

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Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9.30am

**Confessions**  
Saturday 10.00am  
and by appointment

**Baptisms** By appointment

### THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE

**Clerk** Jane Mitchell  
Tel: 503024  
Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com

**Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am



[www.stanstedfamilychurch.com](http://www.stanstedfamilychurch.com)

**Contact** Howard and Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: contactstansfam@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.



### STANSTED FREE CHURCH Methodist / URC Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AG [www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Minister** Rev'd Roy Fowler  
Tel: 814809  
minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

#### Preachers for March

1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Joint service at Saffron Walden URC  
1<sup>st</sup> 3.00pm Joint service at Bishop's Stortford URC  
*No service at Stansted on that day*  
8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mike Render  
15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Communion  
22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler  
29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Mark Hayes - Palm Sunday



### THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

#### Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.30pm Crafton Room, Crafton Green**  
After the business meeting and election of officers there will be a quiz followed by a fish and chip supper, price £8.50. Please telephone me for tickets by Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March as the supper has to be pre-ordered and paid for in advance. Please bring your own drinks! There will be no charge if you prefer to attend the meeting and quiz without having supper. If you are not already a member of the Friends you will be most welcome at the meeting.

Audrey Rodgers  
Chairman  
Tel: 812162



**All enquiries:** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com  
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com

**Rector:** Rev'd Paul Wilkin  
Tel: 812203  
Email: stansted.rector@gmail.com

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

**Church Hall Bookings:** Simon Wilson  
Tel or text: 07582 856689  
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  
**Monday-Thursday and Saturday** 5.00pm Evening Prayer

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

There were no Registers for January.



8.00am Holy Communion  
9.20am Palm Sunday Procession and Sung Eucharist

**ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB**

Many congratulations to the winners of the January draws:

£100 No 217 - Janet Macfarlane  
£ 50 No 11 - Malcolm Lloyd  
£ 25 No 63 - Pamela Jackson

The draws for March will be held on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March in St John's Church following the 9.30am service.

Francine Cope  
Tel: 814562

**STANSTED LIBRARY**

Crafton Green, Chapel Hill

Tue 9.00am-1.00pm Wed 2.00pm-5.00pm  
Thu 2.00pm-6.00pm Sat 9.30am-5.00pm

**Baby and Toddler Time (term time only)**

Tue 11.00am-11.30am



**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**



The theme of this years' service is *Jesus said to them: "Do you know what I have done to you?"* and it challenges us to demonstrate the same radical, unconditional love for others that Jesus showed when he washed the feet of his disciples.



*Lisa James Dreamstime Stock Photos (used with permission)*

The service has been prepared by the women of the Bahamas, and is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm in St John's Church, followed by refreshments. There will be a Traidcraft Stall. All welcome - men and women.



Brenda Veitch  
Tel: 815819



On 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in St John's Church, CTS will be hosting a meeting of all the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates standing in this area at the General Election. The event will be an opportunity for everyone to come along to meet them and ask questions.

Francine Cope  
Secretary  
Tel: 814562



SHALOM

**Change of venue:** our At Home on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February will now be held at 26 Blythood Gardens. On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7 Blythwood Gardens, Barbara Balch will be giving a talk entitled *Hats and Holidays*. Our 'At Home' on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March is at 62 St John's Road. Meetings start at 8.00pm and all are welcome.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

**DON'T FORGET!**

The clocks go forward one hour at 1.00am on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March.



## TYPE 2 DIABETES

Diabetes UK is launching a new peer support and education service called **Type 2 Together** and has joined forces with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group to set up a network of volunteer-facilitated peer support groups across the local community for adults with Type 2 Diabetes. Diabetes UK is working with local surgeries to advise that local groups are available and it is anticipated that newly diagnosed patients will be advised by their surgery of those groups. The groups will give patients the chance to meet and support each other, make friends, and share experiences and information in a social environment. They meet on a monthly basis and you can drop in and out at will; there are groups in Stansted, Elsenham and Bishop's Stortford. Type 2 Together involves trained volunteer Peer Support Facilitators supported by a Diabetes Educator (a specialist Diabetes healthcare professional) to help people live well with their condition. For more information call 0345 123 2399 or email: [type2together@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:type2together@diabetes.org.uk) or visit [www.diabetes.org.uk/how\\_we\\_help/talk-to-someone/type-2-together](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/how_we_help/talk-to-someone/type-2-together).

## STEPH'S WISHES AFTERNOON TEA

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 1.00pm-4.00pm St John's Hall**

The annual tea afternoon is now in its third year and Stansted residents continue to support this worthy charity. Steph's Wishes was set up in memory of Stephanie Knight, who tragically died of Ewings Sarcoma in May 2013. At Steph's Wishes we aim to give 'Memory Days' to people in the UK aged 18-25 years old who have recurring or terminal cancer. It costs on average £1500 to grant a Memory Day and the kindness and generosity of residents in Stansted has managed to raise over this amount each year. Thank you - it makes such a difference. The afternoon is always great fun for all the family and this year will include a kids' activity and play corner, tombola, brilliant raffle, mini manicures and, of course, traditional Afternoon Tea and a fantastic range of yummy cakes and bakes for you to all enjoy. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize or buy raffle tickets (£1 per strip) please contact me. Entry is free - we look forward to seeing you there!

Fran Alvey  
Tel: 07917 122931



## DEMENTIA 'TIME FOR A CUPPA'

We are making **Time for a Cuppa** on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm-4.00pm. As previously, we are being supported by Elsenham Bowls Club who are letting us use their Clubhouse free of charge. Join us for tea, cake and some wonderful fundraising activities. The money raised will go towards funding Admiral Nurses who provide an invaluable service to those who are affected by dementia and their families. We need people to come along on the day but if people are unable to do this, they can still help by baking cakes or donating tombola prizes. Thank you.

Lindsey Peters  
Tel: 814086 or 07807 868608

## ST MARY'S C of E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Learning together we care, share and prepare*  
[www.stmarysstansted.co.uk](http://www.stmarysstansted.co.uk)

It was a big day for St Mary's on 29<sup>th</sup> January when we welcomed Roger Morris, the Bishop of Colchester, to the school. Madi Haselton and Lewis Ward, our Head Girl and Head Boy, made very efficient hosts, greeting the Bishop, showing him around the school and keeping him informed of our activities. The Bishop visited the pupils during lessons, speaking with them about their learning, and met with staff and Governors before enjoying a school lunch with the children. We learned that he is very knowledgeable about '80s music and particularly fond of carrot cake! The school's theme for assemblies that week was 'Water'.



Everyone present will remember Bishop Roger's assembly based on the story of the wedding at Canaan, when Jesus turned water into wine. Apparently, Bishop Roger is also able to perform this miracle! Clear liquid he poured from a glass jug went scarlet when poured into a glass ... He was a chemist before joining the church; perhaps anyone interested in chemistry may like to work out how he did it!

St Mary's again took part in one of the Young Voices concerts at the O<sub>2</sub> Arena. This time we took the Year 5 and 6 pupils – a large group of 53 children plus staff and parent helpers. The Young Voices Choir numbered almost 8000 pupils from schools around southern England, who performed a wide range of music from a pop medley, Lloyd Webber musicals to Rock Requiem sung in Latin. For us a particular favourite was the 'Mandela Tribute' – a medley of songs remembering Nelson Mandela. It was a very long day but a hugely enjoyable and worthwhile experience. If you are new to the area and would like to have a look at our school, please give us a ring on 812212 to arrange a visit. You can learn more about the school from our website.

Christine Tonkins  
Headteacher



with The Stroke Association

### Recognising the Signs of TIAs

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### Women's World Day of Prayer



2 pm Friday 6th March  
St John's Church

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Both events at the Day Centre

## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

2/9/16/23/30 Mon Magna Carta Embroidery

1	Sun	Family Café Snowdrop Sunday
3	Tue	Stansted is Well Read
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Seniors Mountfitchet Garden Club
5	Thu	Recognising the Signs of TIAs Stansted History Society
6	Fri	World Day of Prayer Windmill AGM
8	Sun	Family Café
9	Mon	Shalom
11	Wed	<b>Link copy in due today</b>
12	Thu	WI
14	Sat	St Clare Quiz Music@stansted
18	Wed	Windmill Coffee Morning
19	Thu	Stansted U3A
21	Sat	Family Café U3A Seminar Rainbow Quiz St Mary's Friends AGM & Quiz
23	Mon	Shalom At Home
27	Fri	The Place Easter Event Dementia Time for a Cuppa Family Café & Easter Egg Hunt
28	Sat	Labour Party Coffee Morning St Clare Jumble Sale Saffron Walden Choral Society

Day Centre 1.00 - 3.00 pm
Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 4 pm
Dog & Duck 8 pm
Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
Mountfitchet House 10.30 am - noon
Day Centre 8 pm
St John's Church 2 pm
Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
<b>before 12 noon</b>
Day Centre 7.45 pm
7 for 7.30 pm Forest Hall School
St John's Church 7.30 pm
Day Centre 10 am - noon
St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
Free Church Hall 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
St John's Hall 7 pm
Day Centre 7.30 pm
62 St John's Road 8 pm
Free Church 10 - 11.30 am
Elsenham Bowls Club 2 - 4pm
Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
Free Church Foyer 10 am - noon
St John's Hall 11 am - 1 pm
Saffron Hall 6 pm



ST CLARE HOSPICE

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7 for 7.30 pm Sat 14th Mar

Forest Hall School

Tickets £10 incl Ploughman's  
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Tables 8 or individuals

All Welcome - BYO Drinks & Nibbles



7.30 pm Sun 14th March

St John's Church

### The Coull String Quartet

Haydn ~ Sibelius ~ Beethoven

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Sonia Levy 815282; or at the door



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11 am - 1 pm Sat 28th Mar  
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for more information



Saffron Walden Constituency

### COFFEE MORNING

10 am - noon Sat 28th Mar  
Free Church Foyer, Chapel Hill

Meet our Prospective  
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**All welcome ~ Entry Free**

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### Saturday Seminar

Siena, City of the Virgin by Jo Brooks  
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9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 21st March  
Stansted Free Church Hall

Tickets £4 members, £5 non-members  
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Email: stanstedseminars@gmail.com  
Limited places - advance booking only



### Easter Event

10 - 11.30 am Fri 27th Mar  
Stansted Free Church

Come and help decorate crosses and  
eggs and learn more about Easter

All ages welcome - No charge  
Tel 814059



### Friends of St Mary's Church

AGM, Quiz, Raffle & Supper

Sat 21st March 7.30 pm

Day Centre - BYO drinks

Fish & Chip Supper £8.50

Tickets for supper must be ordered  
by 12th March for catering purposes

from Audrey on 812162



### QUIZ NIGHT

St John's Hall

7 pm Sat 21st March

Tickets £10 (incl Fish & Chips)  
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Teams of eight maximum

Bring your own drinks and glasses

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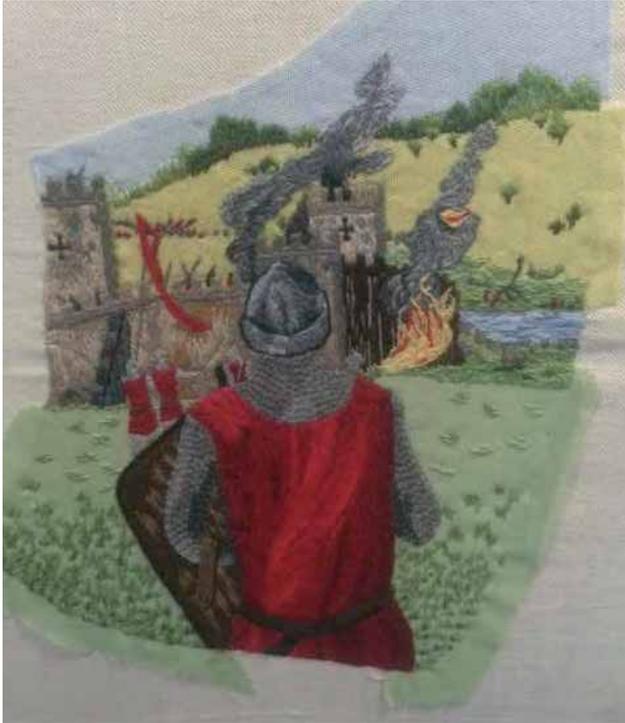
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## MAGNA CARTA 800

The stitchers of the embroidery continue to meet together each week in the Day Centre, putting final touches to the Stansted buildings and moving onto trees stitched on canvas which will be placed beside the buildings on the final



background fabric. The panels, worked on linen for the central section, are progressing well. This panel shows King John's soldiers destroying Stansted Castle. The date has been set for the unveiling of the embroidered panels: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at Forest Hall School. A quiz sheet is being compiled with questions connected with the village and Magna Carta, and will be on sale for £1 as a fund-raiser. The organising committee for the Medieval Fayre would be most grateful for help from anyone who has previous experience of organising large village functions; anyone able to sponsor or promote this event to the wider public; and anyone who is prepared to volunteer to be a helper on the day (Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June). Please contact me if you can help.

### Other Events

- 22<sup>nd</sup> June Arrival of a copy of the Magna Carta
- 11<sup>th</sup> September Concert of medieval music by Trouverer
- 16<sup>th</sup> September Talk by Peter Sanders on 'The Early Montfitchets'
- 25<sup>th</sup> September Evening of local talent, music and drama

Liz Hedge  
Tel: 812509  
Email: echedge52@gmail.com



## SAFFRON WALDEN CONSTITUENCY

We are having a coffee morning in The Foyer of Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am-noon, admission free. This is an opportunity to meet our Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. Everyone welcome.

John and Hilary Todd  
Tel: 812127



www.farnham-school.org

The children have been enjoying the small amount of snow we had, and managed to build an impressive collection of snowmen on the sports field! Rev'd Paul led a wonderful Candlemas service in Farnham church, marking the presentation of baby Jesus to the temple. Despite the cold weather the children in Willow Class had a successful hunt for mini-beasts in the school grounds. They managed to find several that were not hibernating and had fun identifying them back in class before letting them go. The current class topic is 'Changes to Britain Through Time' and everyone has been learning about the country during Roman times. Horse Chestnut class has been learning about argument and debate. Pupils have been discussing such controversial topics as CCTV in schools and whether children should be given detentions. They enjoyed holding a class debate on whether or not zoos should exist. The whole school has been practising singing and playing their recorders for the music celebration in the second half of the term. In February children loved their visit from local company Fab Science and enjoyed all the exciting experiments. They have also had fun working on their new iPads and learning about how to use new technology. Both the science day and the iPads were funded by the Friends of Farnham, the school's busy PTFA.

Farnham is a small village school only a short distance from Stansted. There are currently places available in some years and children resident in Stansted are eligible to attend. Several Stansted families send their children to the school and would be happy to talk to any interested parents. For information call the school reception or see our website.

Katherine Aiken  
Friends of Farnham  
Tel: 771339 (school reception)



### Easter Event Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Following the success of our Christingle event, we are planning an exciting Easter Event. The Place will be open as usual from 9.30am, with planned activities between 10.00am and 11.30am. There will be seasonal craftwork including decorating eggs and Easter crosses, which will become the focus for a short time of reflection on why we celebrate Easter.

The Place on the Hill is a free drop-in held at and organised by Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, and is open every Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Do come and join us - all ages are welcome. Please note that we will **not** be open on Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.



Mike Dyer  
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There has been much 'huffing and puffing' in the nursery this month as we have continued our fairy-tale theme, most recently looking at the story of the Three Little Pigs. We had great fun building houses from sticks, straw and bricks and the children have been practising teamwork and sharing trying to pull 'The Enormous Turnip' from the vegetable patch. This photograph shows three of our little butterflies Sarah, Ava and Tabitha with the hickory dickory dock clock we made. Some of our plans were put aside so that we could go out to play in the recent snow. Even the most reluctant children were soon giggling and squealing with delight as we made snowmen and threw snowballs at our feet. It was brilliant for them to experience the changing environment and challenged their senses as they explored the snow and its texture, touch and feel.



Do you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013? If so, we run a unique Caterpillar session for 2-2½ year olds and their parents on Monday afternoon so that the children become familiar with staff and nursery surroundings to ease the transition into nursery life. Starting nursery is such a big step in a toddler's life and we have found that this group makes it a lot less daunting. If you are interested in booking a place or require more details, please contact us. Birchanger Nursery is in the grounds of, but separate from, Birchanger Primary School. We provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment for children aged 2½ to 5. To arrange a visit telephone our administrator Jen Munton on 810800, email: [admin@birchangernursery.org](mailto:admin@birchangernursery.org) or visit [www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery](http://www.facebook.com/BirchangerNursery).

Kirsty Moore  
Birchanger Nursery Committee

Our Vice-President, Anne Sibthorp, was President for the evening in January while I was away and welcomed members with a glass of wine and an evening of song. *Jerusalem* was led by Emily Yarrow who lives in Stansted, and was our speaker for the evening. Emily came to us last year in January, and it is our way of making sure we have a speaker despite the weather conditions! I was sorry to miss her this year. Emily sang a wide variety of popular classics, some romantic, some amusing and some of her favourites. In between she recalled current happenings in her life, which includes writing a promotional song for Tesco, not yet adopted as she said the second verse wasn't all that complimentary! She will shortly be singing in *The Mikado* at St Albans and we are hoping that some of us will get to see her in a matinée performance. We have plans to celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> year in October; we still have three founder members with us. We also hope to have another tea party in September for anyone who wishes to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WI - no founder members alive now of course! WIs around the country are asked to have a special tea party at this time, so watch out for ours. We had a very nice New Year Dinner at The Chequers at the end of the month attended by over 30 members. Lyn Brister, one of our WI Advisers from County Headquarters, will be coming to talk to us next month to give some of our newer members a chance to ask questions and get some answers we hope! We always welcome visitors, so if you want to know more about the WI come along at 7.45pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March in the Day Centre.



Judy Colliver  
President  
Tel: 812470  
Email: [judycolliver@uwclub.net](mailto:judycolliver@uwclub.net)

## MOUNTFITCHET HOUSE CARE HOME

**Recognising the Signs of TIAs 5th March 10.30am-12 noon**  
The Stroke Association is giving a presentation to the general public on recognising the signs of a Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA), also known as a mini-stroke. To book your free place please contact me.



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## FOR 'CRAFTY' CHILDREN

A lovely card that children can make (with adult supervision for younger ones at the cutting out stage) for Mother's Day, which is on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

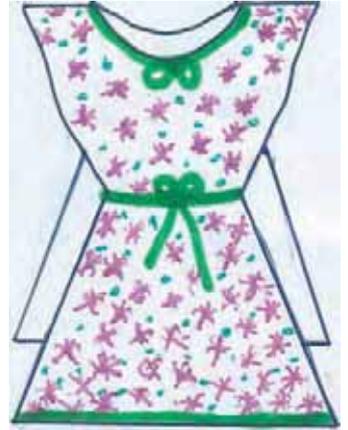
### Materials needed

Piece of white thin card or stiff patterned wrapping paper/wallpaper approx 30cm x 12cm

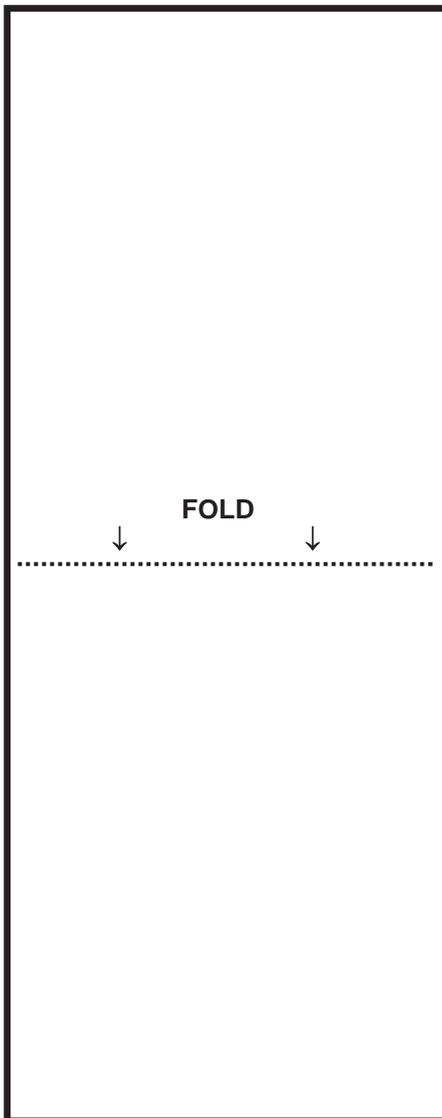
Pair of scissors

Pencil and felt tip pens or crayons

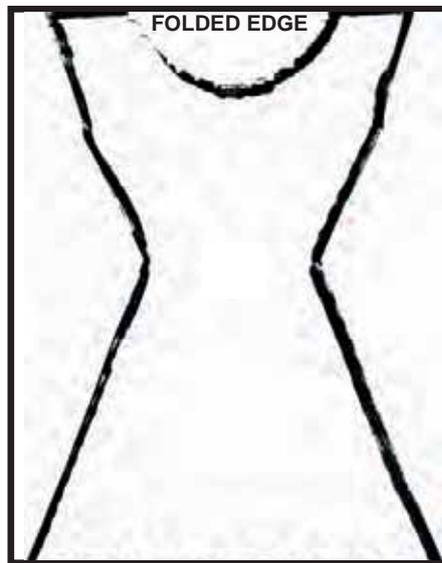
**Note:** diagrams below are drawn to scale but are approximately half the actual size



1 Bringing short edges together fold card/paper in half, with pattern on outside if using patterned paper



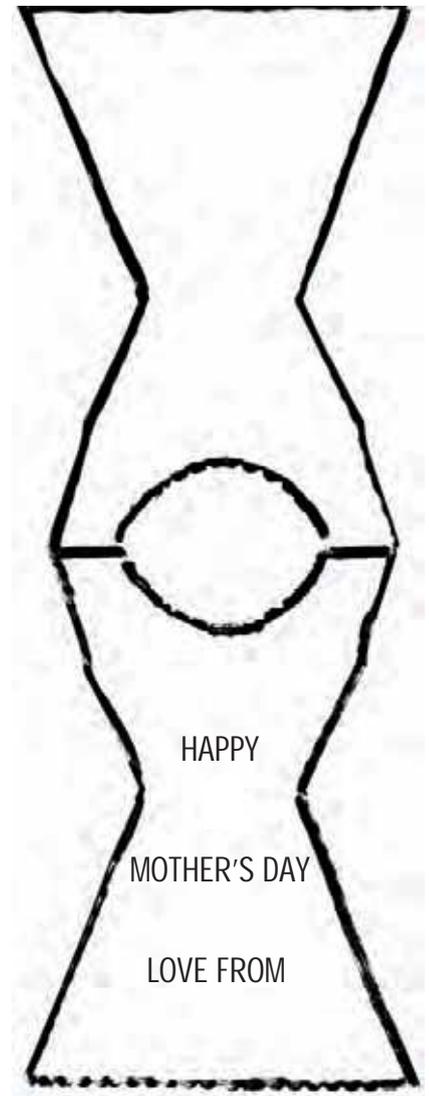
2 With folded edge at the top, using pencil, draw a dress shape making sure the fold forms the shoulders, and that the sides reach the bottom edges of the card/paper so that the completed card will stand up



3a Through both thicknesses of card/paper carefully cut along pencilled lines of the neck (optional) and sides leaving the shoulders as folded edges

3b If using plain card decorate the front of dress shape with felt tips or crayons

4 Open up card and write suitable message inside



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## FILM REVIEW- THE IMITATION GAME



Having seen the trailer, *The Imitation Game* was not a film that pulled me in. It was war based and its protagonist, Alan Turing, was some nerdy bloke who invented a codebreaking machine – not to mention that it was



Benedict Cumberbatch in that role (whom for me, the jury is still very much out); and while it also starred some other big names (Keira Knightley, Charles Dance, Matthew

Goode and Mark Strong), it appeared, well, a bit Cumberbatch-centric.

*The Imitation Game* is a biopic. A mathematician develops a passion for codebreaking as a schoolboy, inspired by an older friend, Christopher, with whom he forms a deep attachment. Flashbacks to school days show him taunted by others for being different - his difference being that he is awkwardly brilliant. Recruited by the British army, along with other leading mathematicians of the time, he is given the task of attempting to crack the Enigma code used by the German army, which changed daily at 6.00am. He invents and builds a machine, which successfully does just that and singularly contributes to the German defeat.

Why Alan Turing is not more celebrated as a significant figure in history is baffling; the impact he had on the war, and contribution to technology in generations thereafter is immense. It is a fascinating insight! Cumberbatch is a very credible Turing; single-minded, detached - yet sensitive - prodigious, eccentric (today he would have a diagnosed syndrome) and damaged. His tragedy springs from



being hounded for his oddness and persecuted for his sexuality. While friends accepted it, the law in wartime Britain did not. The subject of his sexuality and his subsequent arrest and

'treatment' is treated more as an aside, leaving the audience with a bitter taste in its mouth and a remorse for what this brilliant man endured.

Anna Nolan

## NATURE RESPONDS TO DOG MESS

There have been reports of adders moving into this area. In my lifetime there have always been grass snakes, lizards and slow worms to be found locally, but never adders, so this is welcome news for the naturalists. What does this have to do with dogs' mess? Well, the dogs' mess attracts flies; the flies attract frogs and lizards; the frogs and lizards attract adders to the doggy areas; the adders then bite inquisitive dogs. An adder bite is not usually too serious for a human, but it can have dire consequences for a dog. Irresponsible dog owners please take note!



Felix

## GARDENING TIPS

Whilst it is too late to plant dry daffodil bulbs out in the garden, there are nurseries that will sell pots of pre-planted daffodils, which means you can buy the exact, shape, size and fragrance you prefer, although unfortunately they do cost more this way. A truly special feature plant that may be worth



investing in is the Snowy mespilus (*Amelanchier lamarckii*), which have gorgeous white flowers that can appear in late March, although again they can be expensive (over £70 for a 2.5m multi-stemmed specimen). March is one of the busiest gardening months and is the beginning of the optimum period for germinating a new lawn from seed or laying a new one from turf; and remember if using turf, keep it irrigated at all times until the roots are fully established. Renovate an existing lawn by raking out any moss or excess thatch that escaped the Autumn clean up. Now is the time to prune back bush and climbing roses that were not pruned in Autumn, dogwoods and willows grown for their winter stem colour, buddleias, and the time to clean up any ornamental grasses and herbaceous perennials that have not been tidied so far. Any hardy annuals you desire for the summer season can be sown in clumps, drifts or drills now. Warm dry days are a great time for planting rhubarb, flowering perennials, strawberry plants, onion sets, early potatoes (under cover), pot grown shrubs and roses, amongst many others. As the temperature heads north, so do the number of pests; watch out for aphids, which can be scraped off with fingers, and it is a good time for drenching the soil for vine weevil with parasitic nematodes. When the weather is pleasant, get out there! Little and often is rewarding too.

Paul the Gardener



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our January meeting saw the welcome return of Tim Turner of Sworders, his subject being the country house in the 20th century. He entertained us with his vast knowledge, pointing out that many houses dated back to feudal times when they were the centre of a large estate incorporating farms and cottages for the workers. Moving on to more 'recent' times he told us that the industrial revolution brought great wealth to many who wanted to display this wealth by building large houses. The First World War led to many changes; the staff required to maintain the large houses were called upon to serve King and Country and it was often the case that the heir to the estate would be lost in battle and there was no one to inherit. The 1920s saw a huge number of large country houses coming on to the market as they were impractical to run and sadly became white elephants; amazingly in the 1950s one house a week was being demolished! On a more positive note, however, thanks to the National Trust, we still have the greatest number of country houses in the world. To complement his fascinating talk he brought along a collection of old sale catalogues and copies of 'Country Life' magazines for us to peruse. As a finale he not only judged our competition 'something old' but spoke about the items too, being very impressed with a Victorian children's book which had been in our Treasurer's family since new. Why not join us in Ugley Village Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2.15pm?

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922



We welcomed Christine and Keith Hayward, owners of Hart Cannas Nursery and holders of the National Collection of Cannas, to our February meeting. Cannas are exotic-looking plants originating in the tropical and sub-tropical regions of The Americas (from Florida to Chile and Argentina). Botanically they are members of the cannaceae plant family, and there is only one genus, canna, so although their leaves look like banana plants and the flowers like gladioli or the ginger family, they are not related to any other plant. Wild canna plants mostly have small flowers, but when specimens were brought to Europe, large flowered hybrids were bred and subsequently exported around the world where they have naturalised in hot countries. Some grow to over 8ft but others are only 18". The foliage can range from green to bronze, be plain or stripy, and flowers are orange, red, yellow, pink and cream. They are very versatile and grow in the garden or pots, tolerating drought or growing in shallow water. The flowering season is June to mid-October, in full sun or shade. They do not like extreme cold, so it is recommended that the plants are dug up and moved inside over winter. At their nursery in Bisley, Surrey over 4000 plants are moved inside polytunnels!! Plants can be grown from rhizomes and a few from seeds, which need to be scarified as the outer shell is extremely hard - hence its colloquial name 'Indian Shot Plant' as they were used instead of lead pellets. We were warned about the canna virus disease, as many overseas growers are still producing and exporting large numbers of diseased cannas. If it was a vegetable crop this would not be allowed, but because it is an ornamental there are no laws preventing importation, even though the devastating effect is known about and a field inspection of the growing plants before issuing an import licence would identify a bad crop and help eradicate this virus. Many unsuspecting supermarkets, garden centres and municipal councils are still being sold them as rhizomes, so that the diseased leaves are not seen until it is too late. Gardeners should be vigilant and at the first sign (yellow streaks in the leaves) the plant should be destroyed. For more information see [www.canna-collection.org.uk](http://www.canna-collection.org.uk).

Our next meeting is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March at the Day Centre when Mr Thady Barrett will be talking about 'Plant Breeders - what are they doing to our flowers and vegetables?' Doors open 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Refreshments available prior to the meeting. Everyone welcome.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144

## Bishop's Stortford Antiques & Collectables Fair

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## STANSTED WELL READ



Our next meeting is at 8.00pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the Dog and Duck, when we will be reading *The Guest Cat* by Takashi Hiraide. Newcomers are very welcome. For more information contact me.

Victoria North  
Email: [vnorth63@gmail.com](mailto:vnorth63@gmail.com)



[www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)

**Ladies' Night** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm. All lady members (especially new ones) are welcome to come along and play.

### Coaching

I am starting up the following sessions: junior afternoon group, Tuesday afternoon adult beginners/intermediate, and Friday lunch-time. So if you are keen to get started, please get in touch.

### Adult Club Sessions

Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings and evenings and Friday mornings. All adult members welcome. Please use the website page to indicate sessions you are attending.

### Tennis balls

£1 for a tube of four from Jan Hollis at 105 Cambridge Road.

### Contacts

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



Chris Hollis  
Tel: 319155  
Email: [chris.hollis2@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.hollis2@btinternet.com)

## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

The Club continues to be busy during the winter. The November AGM was well attended with all roles within the Club being filled. Mark Vowels will be the new vice-captain and Peter Fitzpatrick will skipper the youthful 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. In January 200 people attended the quiz evening at Bishop's Stortford College. This event is always well supported by players and friends. Indoor nets started on 1<sup>st</sup> February and will run for 10 weeks. Junior teams U11 and U13 have been playing all winter in indoor leagues, and 121 nets began in February. Winter activities will conclude with 10-pin bowling at Braintree for all members and parents. The Club have arranged a tour to Norfolk in August playing against Overstrand, Happisburg, and Cromer, and we have again invited groups from St Elizabeth's and Home Farm Trust to a coaching morning followed by lunch. The Club continues to look for new members from eight years upwards, girls and boys, for the junior section, and senior cricketers who want to play either league or friendly matches. We have a very good atmosphere in the Club and our ground is one of the most picturesque in Essex. The teas are really good too!!!



David Brown  
Tel: 831011  
Email: [david.r.brown1@btinternet.com](mailto:david.r.brown1@btinternet.com)

## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB PRESENTATION EVENING

The evening was very successful with numerous young players and parents present as well as senior players. Lynda Sowter and Jo Lushey once again provided and served some fantastic food. The Christmas Draw raised over £800 for club funds. Thank you to all who supported the event.



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This season's last concert is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in St John's Church, when the popular and internationally famous Coull Quartet will be making a return visit. Formed in 1974, the quartet celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and still includes two of its founder members. They have given recitals in many prestigious UK venues, broadcast extensively and made tours of Western



Europe, the Americas, Australia, India, China and the Far East. They will be playing one of Haydn's late quartets, Opus 74 No 2, full of the older composer's wit and wisdom; Sibelius' only quartet, known as 'Intimate Voices'; and the third of Beethoven's famous 'Rasumovsky' quartets, Opus 59, commissioned by Count Rasumovsky and tinged with Russian melodies in his honour. A rare quality of freshness mixed with maturity and humour characterises the quartet's performances and is often singled out by reviewers. Tickets: adults £15, children under 18 free, are available from Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy, tel 815282; or at the door. Check our website for general information, or if you have a specific enquiry please email: info@musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley



Just before Christmas, we were devastated to learn of the death of Simon Hammond, a member of the group for over 20 years, after a short illness. Simon was such a smiley, happy person, always making a joke - he was a huge part of the Club. We all miss him greatly, particularly so close to the death of Gary, another member, just two months before. It was lovely to see so many people attend his funeral to say goodbye, and we are very grateful to his family for choosing the Club to receive any donations. We finished 2014 with our carol concert which was very well attended - thanks to those who came along. In early January we went to see the 'Aladdin' pantomime at the Arts Theatre in Cambridge. It was lots of fun - lots of booing, hissing and "he's behind you's"! The Huw Johnson Club restarted on 26<sup>th</sup> February following a few months off over the winter. The week before, we celebrated our annual New Year dinner at the Chequers Pub in Ugley. Thanks to the fantastic sum raised by the Ropkins' summer garden party last August, all 55 of us (members and volunteers) were able to enjoy the meal for free, which was a great way to start the New Year! Over the next few months, we have a huge range of activities to look forward to. We are hoping to hold a film night and also a disco, but need to hire/borrow some of the equipment, so any offers of help would be greatly appreciated! As always, we are looking for more drivers or helpers. Please contact Sandra Embleton on 812627 or myself if you would like more information.



Katharine Collis  
Tel: 461270



## BEEKEEPING

I am an optimistic believer in the human experience, and our ability to overcome all obstacles in the interests of survival. It was in this context that I recently read about a British company called Eden Research, who research such products as pesticides based, not on chemicals, but naturally occurring plants, and then sells the use of the formula to large manufacturers in return for a license fee. Eden's latest product is not only derived entirely from plants, but is cheap to manufacture and has one very important property - it is not harmful to bees. As some of you may remember from my previous articles, neonicotinoids, the pesticide currently used to protect crops, are now banned in the EU, but the ban is up for review soon. The big chemical companies are calling for a lifting of the ban due to conflicting evidence, and also make the point that the intensity of farming is not going to decrease with the need to feed more mouths in the world. Many bee keepers agree with this, and say a further ban will make farmers return to old pesticides which are definitely harmful to bees. By licensing Eden's fully regulated bee-friendly product, large chemical companies can protect their business and farming can continue with similar yields. This is a wonderful prospect, it gladdens my heart and convinces me to stay an optimist.



John Dockerill  
Chairman Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association  
Email: training@stortfordbees.org.uk



## STANSTED COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Stansted Community First Responders group will be up and running soon. We currently have six fully trained volunteers, who look resplendent in their high vis jackets, but would like more people to join the group so we can provide cover for more of the week. You need to commit to about three hours a week on call, the times of which are your choice, and attend a monthly training session to keep you up to date with the latest developments. The static defibrillator will be ordered as soon as the bank accounts are sorted, so watch this space. If anyone is, or knows anyone who might be interested in joining Stansted CFR's please contact me.

Matthew Jessup  
Tel: 816591  
Email: matt@janeandmatt.co.uk

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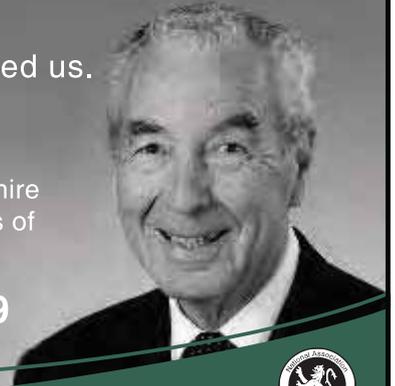
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# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

for

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

to be held at

The Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill,  
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

On WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015 at 8.00 pm

## A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- 3 To welcome Chris Wade, Director of People and Places, on the subject of a possible market
- 3 To receive the Parish Council's audited accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014
- 4 To receive the Parish Council's Financial Review
- 5 Chairman's Report
- 6 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch
- 7 Proposed resolutions
- 8 Open Forum
- 9 Refreshments

February 2015

Ruth A Clifford, Clerk

### NOTE

The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. Such resolutions are not binding upon the Parish Council, but members usually consider them at their next available meeting and consider what action, if any, to take.

Anyone wishing to speak under the Open Forum must state their name and use the microphones provided. Please try not to repeat topics already discussed. The meeting will close at 10 pm

## PARKING IN LOWER STREET CAR PARK PLEASE

\*\*\*\*\*

**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MARCH 2015**
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Year ended 31 March		2011	2012	2013	2014	2014	2015	2016	NOTES
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	
Item									
1	Village Maintenance and Cleaning	56,346	60,310	60,935	67,190	64,402	73,045	75,334	A
2	Recreation and Play Areas	3,147	5,308	2,983	5,149	4,504	3,799	3,699	
3	Street Lighting	15,445	17,224	10,984	14,850	17,754	14,450	15,200	B
4	Administration and Office Costs	83,676	72,487	64,341	86,209	107,282	86,102	92,506	C
5	Members Expenses and Training	639	624	706	1,000	1,929	1,500	1,700	D
6	Discretionary projects	36,646	27,646	18,906	9,050	1,512	7,050	7,050	E
7	Christmas Fayre	n/a	n/a	4,137	1,500	1,473	0	0	
8	Day Centre	n/a	312	- 4,275	-	- 931	0	0	F
9	Windmill	2,000	8,920	4,000	4,000	4,650	4,000	4,000	
10	Crafton Green rental income	- 27,500	- 27,500	- 27,500	- 27,500	- 27,500	-27,500	-14,500	
11	Crafton Green Car Park	- 4,579	- 4,337	- 3,836	250	- 4,801	-2,110	-1,940	G
12	Capital projects	1,207	5,331	- 2,894	10,850	4,771	3,750	3,750	H
	<b>Total net expenditure</b>	<b>£ 167,027</b>	<b>£ 166,325</b>	<b>£ 128,487</b>	<b>£ 172,548</b>	<b>£ 175,045</b>	<b>£ 164,086</b>	<b>186,799</b>	
13	<b>Council Tax Precept</b>	<b>£ 147,500</b>	<b>£ 163,000</b>	<b>£ 187,000</b>	<b>£ 198,000</b>	<b>£ 198,000</b>	<b>£ 212,000</b>	<b>217,000</b>	
	Average per Band D		£ 65	£ 65	£ 65	£ 65	£ 66	£66	
	<b>Net surplus or (deficit)</b>	<b>-£ 19,527</b>	<b>-£ 3,325</b>	<b>£ 58,513</b>	<b>£ 25,452</b>	<b>£ 22,955</b>	<b>£ 47,914</b>	<b>30,201</b>	

**BALANCE SHEET at 31st March**

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
Bank, cash and investments	130,634	121,258	158,434	212,836	267,000
Due to Council	3,977	14,816	48,117	33,921	
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>134,611</b>	<b>136,074</b>	<b>206,551</b>	<b>246,757</b>	<b>267,000</b>
Less: Owed by Council	3,549	8,333	9,965	27,217	
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>£ 131,062</b>	<b>£ 127,741</b>	<b>£ 196,586</b>	<b>£ 219,540</b>	<b>£ 267,000</b>
These assets represent . . .					
Reserves for specific projects	43,876	36,329	104,946	108,640	
Accumulated general reserve	87,186	91,412	91,639	110,900	
	£ 131,062	£ 127,741	£ 196,585	£ 219,540	

**EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE FIGURES**

1	Grasscutting, gardening, maintenance litter and garden waste skips.
2	Maintenance of all play areas less rents from tennis and bowls clubs.
3	Lighting maintenance and energy costs.
4	All costs related to the function of the Parish Council and running of Crafton Green office.
5	Parish councillors' expenses and training.
6	Includes part-funding the Youth Service, CCTV, Bonfire night, Parish Grants (1% of precept).
8	Responsibility transferred from Uttlesford to Parish in 12/13 with grant of £11,600 pa for 3 years from UDC.
10	Rents from clinic and library.
11	50% of income from Crafton Green car park (UDC retains 50%) less business rates.
12	Includes contribution to unadopted roads, lighting and IT.
13	Precept is the element of Council Tax collected by Uttlesford specifically for this parish.

**NOTES REGARDING MAJOR VARIATIONS**

Note A	Burial income was higher than forecast by £3,300.
Note B	Included the cost of the three-yearly electrical safety inspection.
Note C	Higher than anticipated costs relating to 2013 elections (£9,900), planning consultants (£7000) and legal fees relating to Foresthall Park.
Note D	Members attended an increased number of training courses.
Note E	Funding from third parties helped to off-set costs. Firework event broke even.
Note F	Small surplus has been carried over into an Earmarked Reserve.
Note G	Higher than anticipated income from the car park.
Note H	Greater success than anticipated in securing external grant funding.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Council tax (parish share) for 2015/16 will be unchanged with current projections suggesting that this position will be repeated in 2016/17. Reserves remain satisfactory.

*Net spending trends are discussed below:*

2014/15 - Net spending in the current year at an estimated £158,000 will be below the original budget of £175,000 helped by reduced insurance premiums and CCTV maintenance charges coupled with higher revenues from Crafton Green car park, burial fees and recharges to the clinic.

2015/16 - The sharp increase in projected net expenditure to £190,000 reflects three factors. First, no rent from the Library during the build period. Second, higher costs (energy, elections, professional fees, salaries, CCTV maintenance on new system and greater support for The Link). Third, caution over the level of income from Crafton Green car park and burial fees.

2016/17 - Assuming the clinic leaves Crafton Green House to move to the new Health Centre, this will affect the budget adversely by £18,000 to which will need to be added increased costs for gardening and grasscutting (after new contracts), play equipment maintenance on Foresthall Park and salaries (litter collection on FHP). On the other side lower election costs and professional fees coupled with higher income from Crafton Green car park will help. Taken together net expenditure is projected at £210,000.

*Trend in general reserves:*

	31/03/14	31/03/15	31/03/16
General Reserves (£'000)	111	133	158

The movement in 2014/15 reflects a surplus of £28,000 offset by transfers to committed reserves for trees, elections and professional fees.

In considering the level of reserves, it should be remembered that the extension to the Crafton Green car park, the fitting out of the new community building and maintenance or conversion costs on Crafton Green House may need to be funded if grants are not available.

*Projects - a year of advance*

The new CCTV system is installed (with two ANPR cameras on Cambridge Road to follow) and operating well while the redesign of the Bentfield Play Area, the new Skatepark and the Community Centre at Crafton Green have all been commissioned with the first two scheduled for completion in the first half of 2015 and the last in Spring 2016.

### Precept and Council Tax

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Precept (£'000)	163	187	198	212	217
Council Tax (Band D) - £	65.10	64.83	64.69	65.77	66.38
% change		- 0.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.67	+0.9

Over the four years to March 2016 council tax (parish share) will have increased by 2% and in 2014/15 is 51% lower than Saffron Walden and 48% below the figure for Great Dunmow.

Cllr Peter Jones  
Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A number of projects are coming to fruition this year following what seems like endless planning, negotiation and applying for grants. Those of you who have logged onto our new website ([www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net)) may already know that we have been successful in raising funds to complete the refurbishment of the Bentfield Play Area and for a new concrete skatepark. We hope that both projects will be completed ahead of the summer holidays. Following a small re-design of the internal layout, documents are now being drawn up to go out to tender on our Crafton Green Community building. The new CCTV is fully operational and assisted Hertfordshire Police to make an arrest within its first week! We have secured funding from Uttlesford District Council which, when added to our own funds, will ensure that the youth centre continues to open for four nights per week and in the summer holidays.

As you must all be aware, 2015 celebrates the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta. Various events will be taking place. A stained glass window will be dedicated by the Rector in the Day Centre on 13 June followed by a Liber-Tea. The Rector will host a fun day on the Sunday, an event will be held at Stansted Hall (details previously in The Link) and the bells of St Mary's will ring out.

Our Christmas lights in Lower Street have proved very successful and we are looking to extend these up Chapel Hill if we can source funds. December saw us host our third Christmas Market in its new location at Crafton Green. This will now be the permanent venue for this event. I am delighted to say that for the first time we made a profit and the surplus funds have been put into our reserves to finance future events. This is now a regular fixture on the village calendar and we are in the very early stages of looking into the possibility of a regular market to support local businesses and increase footfall for retailers in our area. If this proposal goes ahead one of the main issues we will have to address is parking. A working group has been established to review all aspects of car parking in our village and to submit proposals to Uttlesford DC to enhance provision where possible and we are obtaining quotes to extend the Crafton Green car park.

In response to the flooding in February 2014, the Parish Council has commissioned Aquaread to provide a flood alert system which will be located at Gall End and will send messages to our flood wardens to warn them that the water level is rising. An action plan will then be followed in an effort to prevent the flooding of Lower Street, and certainly to close that road to traffic in the event that a flood cannot be prevented. To enable us to achieve this we have purchased a supply of barriers, traffic signs, hi-vis clothing for our Flood Wardens and torches. As UDC does not appear to have received delegated funds as promised from ECC to help the worst affected areas (our village was considered to be number one priority in Uttlesford), the Parish Council will seek reimbursement of these costs from Essex County Council.

As we move now towards Springtime we hope to see an even greater display of daffodils following further planting last Autumn. Plans are being laid for this year's Stansted in Bloom competition – it has been encouraging that year on year we have seen an increase in residents taking part in the event and some truly magnificent gardens. We are grateful to Cllr Valerie Trundle for her unstinting work in organising this event. Thanks to her persistence with County Highways we hope to have floral planters to brighten up the railings by the crossing on Cambridge Road.

Neighbourhood Plan – the PC has applied to UDC to proceed with a Plan. A steering group is being formed to agree the remit of the Plan and process timetable and budget. The Neighbourhood Plan must fit with the agreed Local Plan and in the light of Uttlesford's Plan having been rejected, we now have to refer to the Plan dated 2005 along with the National Planning Policy Framework. However, the Plan needs active input from the community – it is not a Parish Council document. If you have time to help, please let us know.

Finally, I hope by the time I stand up at the Annual Parish Meeting, I will be able to confirm that the surgery has signed the lease to transfer to Castle Maltings and that our new health centre is well on its way. Many people have been involved in supporting and promoting this scheme and Mr Raymond Woodcock, a parish resident, should be thanked for his efforts. Similarly our thanks go to all those who give up their time to maintain our true community spirit. I believe that the Council has achieved huge progress this year, particularly given that we have not had to raise the level of Council Tax, and extend my thanks to our staff and my fellow councillors for their support.

Cllr Maureen Caton

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk, Chairman
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk
Beavers Age 6-8	Wayne Browning Tel: 079764 41468 Email: mrwbrowning@googlemail.com	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
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Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
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History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
Inner Wheel Club	Brenda Cox, President Tel: 812191 Email: brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk	U3A	Christine, Chair Tel: 817587
Investigators	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver, President Tel: 812470
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@music@stansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		

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

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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[www.careuk.com/mountfitchet-house](http://www.careuk.com/mountfitchet-house)

### Luxury and comfort at the new Mountfitchet House care home

On your first visit to Mountfitchet House you'd be forgiven for thinking you've entered a hotel. You'll be greeted by friendly staff on reception, and there's a coffee shop, a cinema, and even a hair salon. Each of the bedrooms has an en-suite wet room plus a flat-screen television, adjustable profile bed, phone and internet connections and a 24-hour nurse call system.

The newly opened home offers residential, dementia, nursing, permanent and respite care for your loved one with care teams dedicated to supporting you, your family and your loved one every step of the way, from your first visit to the care home to the day your loved one moves in and throughout their time at Mountfitchet House.

*Care UK* homes are operated by highly qualified and caring professionals who are focused on ensuring your loved one continues to lead a fulfilling and enjoyable life.



## STANSTED STROLL

Walking is an inexpensive way to exercise that is suitable for most people; so now the days are getting longer and warmer why not give it a go? Below is an easy circular route, ideal for parents with buggies, and for families new to the area wanting to explore the village. Only about 1½ miles long it takes approximately 30 to 40 minutes. **Note for dog walkers:** Red crosses on the map indicate special red bins along the route for the disposal of bagged dogs' poo.

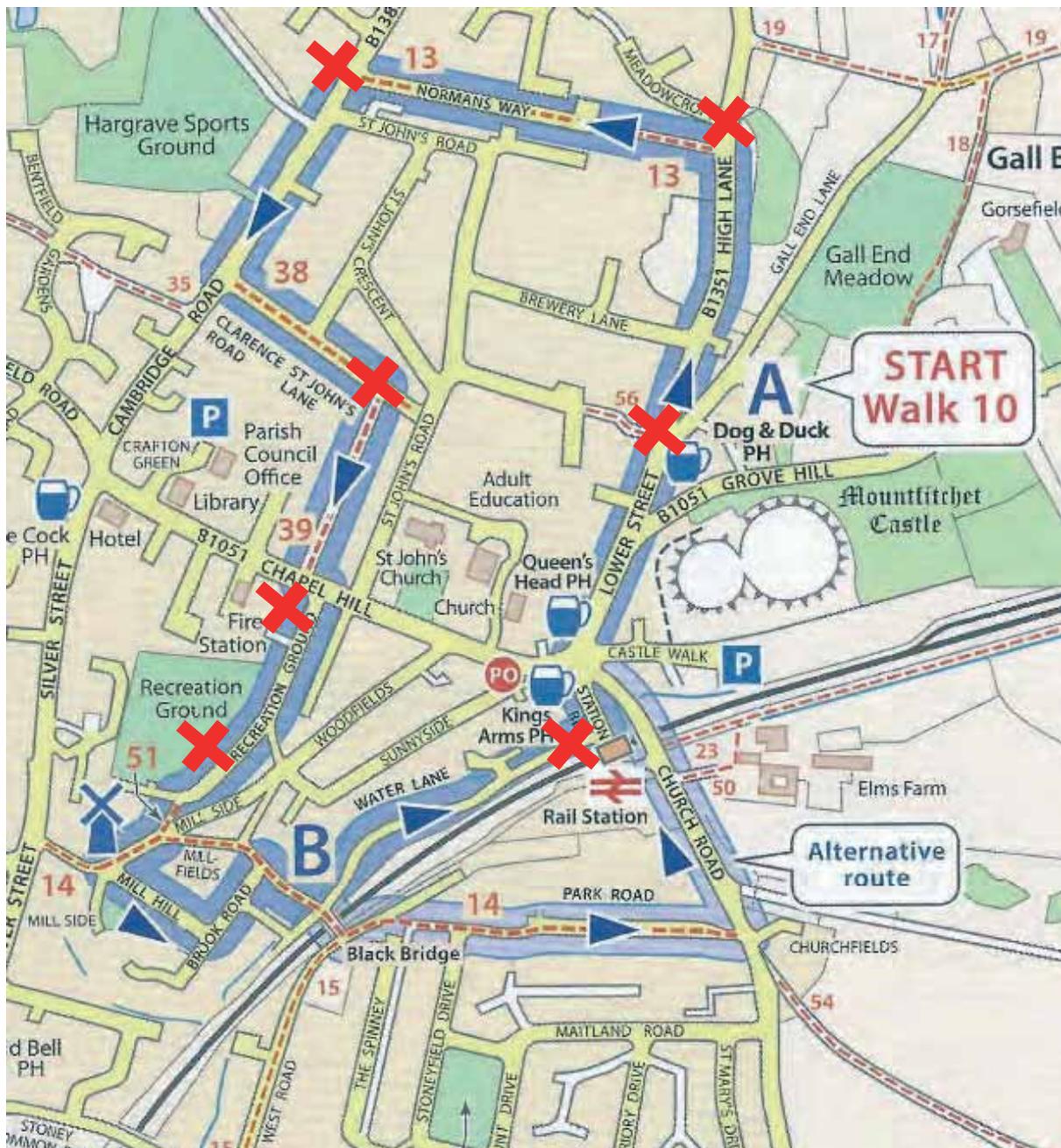
Starting at the Dog and Duck public house in Lower Street marked **A** Walk 10 on map, turn right and walk up High Lane until you reach Footpath FP13. Cross High Lane and follow the path in a westerly direction to Norman's Way. Walk uphill to Cambridge Road (B1383) and turn left walking south along Cambridge Road to Clarence Road. Turn left on FP38, then right on to FP39, which runs between the houses in St John's Road and Greenfields.

At Chapel Hill turn left, cross the road and immediately turn right into Recreation Ground Road. Passing Lopy's Hill on your left take the small twitchell (FP51) towards the windmill. Turn left into Mill Hill (opposite the windmill) and left at the bottom into Brook Road. At the end of Brook Road, turn right over the gravel driveway and cross Stansted Brook via the footbridge. Turn left into Water Lane **B** and continue along to join Station Road and return to Lower Street.

The Walk can be extended from point **B** by taking FP14 that follows the pedestrian bridge over the railway (known as the Black Bridge) up a slope that leads into Park Road. Go to the end of Park Road, cross Church Road (taking care as sight lines can be obscured by foliage) and turn left, walking downhill to join Lower Street.

Enjoy!

*Taken from 'Saunters Round Stansted' produced by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council with their kind permission*



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Rhodes Arts Complex in Bishop's Stortford is an entertainment venue with its own theatre, gallery, bar, dance studios and is home to the Bishop's Stortford Museum. With a range of events from drama, music, comedy and family shows, there is something for everyone.

### Music

*Dr Feelgood Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 8.00pm £17.50*

From Canvey Island in the early 1970s, Dr Feelgood remains one of the most popular and exciting live rhythm and blues acts in the world. The raw and uncompromising style of their performance resulted in the album *Stupidity* that immediately went to the number one in the UK charts.

*Broadway and Beyond Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm £18*

A thrilling mix of live music, movement and wit performed by eight versatile West End professionals; three all-singing, all-dancing actors accompanied by five musicians. A stunning performance to set your feet tapping, your heart singing and leave you wanting more.

### Theatre

*Jekyll & Hyde Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm £12/£10*

A modern adaptation set in an alternative London of the future. Written by Jo Clifford and multi award-winning touring company 'Sell a Door'.

*Living with Luke Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>/Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm*

*£12/£10 concs/ £38 family / £9 schools*



Danson Thunderbolt is not ordinary Dad, and his teenage son Luke, is not so ordinary either; for Luke is autistic and the Autistic Shadow gets between them every single day, making communication a struggle. So what is a Dad to do? Wrestle the Autistic Shadow! Box Office tel 710200.



www.swchoral.org.uk

**Bach St Matthew Passion Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 6.00pm**

at Saffron Hall, accompanied by Granta Chorale. Tickets from Saffron Walden Tourist Office on 01799 524002, www.saffronhall.com or on the door subject to availability.

Helen Sterling



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

This term the older group children have carried out science experiments with water, seeing what happens when it is left outside in the cold and trying to work out how toy animals had got inside a block of ice. They also had a cooking session making carrot cake muffins, and through the story of 'Handa's Surprise' they have discussed how to keep healthy. The Pre-School are collecting the Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, which runs until 5<sup>th</sup> May at all Sainsbury's stores, petrol stations, and online orders. The vouchers enable us to claim a number of items for the children from equipment for fun activities to educational items to promote healthy eating. We would be grateful for any spare vouchers - please drop them into our letterbox. We are holding a number of events this year, so here are couple for the diary:

**Quiz Night 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.00pm St John's Hall**

Last chance for tickets - all welcome. Tickets £10 (includes Churchills' Fish and Chip supper) from the pre-school. Teams maximum of eight. More details from Gill on 814242.

**Open Day 25<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-noon**

We welcome all past, present and future pupils. Please bring along the whole family to see what happens, refreshments will be available. You will also have the opportunity to speak with the staff, parents and committee members. Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising five. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website. You need to put your child's name down now, however young to ensure a place. Contact Gill Pursglove the Pre-School Administrator email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net or call 814242. Places for September 2015 are filling up fast!

Clair Rava

Parent/Committee Member



STANSTED  
MOUNTFITCHET  
WINDMILL

At the time of writing we are busy delivering Membership Forms. If you are not on our membership list please let me know and I will see that you get a form. As a member when you show your card at the Mill entry is free whenever the Mill is open. If you come to the AGM on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre, you can sign up as a member that evening. Membership costs £4.00, family £8.00, senior citizens £2.00. Some of our Windmill souvenirs will be on sale there and we have some new items. Anyone wishing to become a Windmill Steward please contact me on the number below. We are hoping to arrange a 'Teach-In' for all new Stewards quite soon. Don't forget our coffee morning on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Day Centre 10.00am-noon, entry £2.00, which includes refreshments. We are still looking for a Secretary and would be very pleased to hear from anyone who could help. One of our most popular events was the 'Race Night' and we are hoping to organise another soon.



Molly Clark  
Co-Trustee  
Tel: 816768

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# FOREST HALL SCHOOL



## Mission X

Students from Elsenham, Bentfield, St Mary's, Manuden, and Henham and Ugley took part in a Mission Launch day on 27<sup>th</sup> January, hosted by us. They learned about astronaut hydration and bone strength, practised teamwork and hand-eye co-ordination, and met Gene Cernan, the last man on the moon, through a participatory theatre. Images of the



activities were shared on twitter and retweeted during the day. Dave Roberson, Mission Controller for the school, is excited about the 'Mission X Train like an Astronaut' programme which allows primary school children to learn about the problems encountered in space and then have a go themselves; they are the generation that may one day lead us into space exploration so hopefully we've sowed the seeds of imagination.

## Challenge Day

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, four Year 10 students took part in a Challenge Day at the University of Cambridge. Bradley Adams-Stock, Charlie Heals, Ellie Moore and Carl Parsons attended the event, which is designed to provide academically able students with a taste of higher education and life at Emmanuel College. The day was made up of an introduction to University life, a Challenge Day quiz, a debating challenge and two seminars given by post-graduate students and lecturers at the University - one was an introduction to linguistics; the other was about brown fat! The day was rounded off by our four students winning the Challenge Day quiz, achieving the highest average amongst the five schools present. An excellent day and a real eye-opener to University life.



Carl Parsons, Bradley Adams-Stock, Charlie Heals, Ellie Moore

Danielle Garwood  
Administrator



# STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stanstedu3a.org

The next meeting is on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March in St John's Hall. The doors open at 1.30pm and you are welcome to a complimentary tea or coffee and a biscuit. The speaker is Dr Pat Garrod talking about a 100,007 miles trip on a motor bike round much of the world.

The trip to **Cambridge** in March is eagerly awaited by members who will enjoy a panoramic coach tour of Cambridge and a guided walking tour of King's College. Cambridge was named after the 7<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon bridge over the river Cam. In 1209 the University of Cambridge was founded, and by 1446 Henry VI began the construction of King's College Chapel. Robert Walpole matriculated from the university in 1696 and went on to become the very first Prime Minister of Britain.

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June a day trip to **Marlow** has been arranged. The day includes lunch and a guided walking tour of Cookham followed by a Thames Boat cruise. The cost is £36 which includes tips - what a bargain!! Call Maggie on 503848 or Jan on 812481 for further details.

**Just a reminder:** up to five members of the Committee will be standing down at the AGM in May as they have been on it since Stansted U3A's early months. Our constitution does not allow them to continue, so new Committee members are required. Without your involvement we will struggle to exist and that would be regrettable after all the effort put in since our inauguration in 2009. If you are interested please contact anyone on the Committee where you will be able to shadow activities over the coming months or simply just request an invitation to attend Committee meetings so you can see and feel what we do.

There are three spaces in the **Yoga group** on Tuesdays 4.00pm-5.00pm. Contact Cherry on 817140 if you are interested. For more details, visit our website and watch out for new activities at the meetings, or contact Chris (Chair) 817587 or Sandra (Secretary) 814304.



Caroline Bore

## EVENING WITH THE 'PSYCHICS'

You are warmly welcomed to another Evening with the Psychics at Forest Hall School on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm onwards. Jeff (the Postman) Philips will again be joining us for this light hearted evening and we are really looking forward to what he has to say!! There will be refreshments and homemade delights during the evening, so please feel free to join us. Tickets are £5. Call 07711 443259 or 07962 586825 to find out more or simply turn up on the night.

Sam Fairweather

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## WEALDEN COTTAGE, BENTFIELD GREEN

Thought to have been built around 1498 this Wealden house, a style most commonly found in the Weald of Kent, is easily recognised. It is timber framed and has a tiled roof, a true sign of quality. A room juts out at either end and a big hipped roof covers the whole. It would have been built by a Tudor yeoman, who in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century owned land (freehold, leasehold or copyhold). The wealth and size of holding varied but it is thought that it would not normally be less than 100 acres and in social standing one step below the Landed Gentry. Originally the recessed centre was the hall - one big room open right to the roof, with a fire on a hearth in the middle. The smoke found its way out at openings at the ends of the ridge; the rafters of the central roof are soot blackened by the open hearth, which existed before the central chimney stack was built through the roof. The storeyed ends have joist tenons with housed soffit-shoulders, indicating a construction date before 1510, whilst the intruded floor of the central hall has joists with diminished haunches, having been installed after 1510. Only the ends had upstairs rooms, reached by ladders from the hall. The interior has heavy close spaced studding, beams and joists with plaster infilling.



All Wealden houses were later modernised by the insertion of a floor in the hall with a staircase. Headroom was not a problem as the dimensions were taken from the end rooms of the building. The result is a house of simple and practical layout, with an attractive and impressive outline. The plan originally provided a central hall opening from the front door, with a large kitchen and living rooms off it on either side. Formal entertaining was done in the hall around a large table. Clear evidence exists at the west end of the hall for the windows at its 'high end'; these were diamond-mullioned and extended from ground sill to the eaves with five lights each. They were not built to take glass, as in Tudor times this was an expensive luxury, but would have had shutters to keep out the elements.

*Essex County Council Planning, undated newspaper and Wikipedia.*

Ralph Phillips  
My thanks to Mr and Mrs Steve Hall

## VETS AND CARDBOARD BOXES

This month I will tell you about vets and cardboard boxes. Every day we are presented with boxes of all shapes and sizes and have to 'guess the contents'. I am often tempted, when asked what I've done during the day, to say I've treated two pairs of trainers, a steam iron and a computer printer! Only the other day I was confronted by three anxious owners with cardboard boxes on their laps, one of which contained 'Scarface' the feline equivalent of Robert De Niro. Scarface and I have an understanding: I get 30 seconds to examine him and find out what's wrong and then he bites me; it is something we have negotiated over the years, you understand. The second was a shoe box which any vet will tell you is bound to contain a hamster, and sure enough, out popped Chuckles who proceeded to try and commit hamster suicide by jumping off the table. Luckily Kim managed a save worthy of Peter Shilton and returned him to the box with only two fingers bleeding. The third box contained Tommy the tortoise. I always think there is something a little pre-historic about tortoises. We see quite a lot of them, and run pre- and post-hibernation evenings every September and March. Tortoises are wonderful pets but require more effort to look after than you think. Gone are the Blue Peter days when you simply let the tortoise out in the garden with its name written on its shell. Now you need specialist temperature controlled accommodation. Tortoises need a UV-b lamp that can provide heat and the right sort of light to allow them to metabolise vitamin D and calcium. We understand their nutritional requirements better and know that fruit and cucumber are not adequate; they need calcium and fibre rich foods such as leafy greens and dandelions. For more about tortoises or our information evening this month, please give us a ring.



Ilse Pedler  
Mercer & Hughes Veterinary Surgeons  
Tel: 813780



## Stansted Cricket Club

Junior Nets began on 8<sup>th</sup> February at Birchwood School for seven weeks until 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Start times vary between 4.30pm and 6.00pm. Further details from Mike Burgoine on 07720 710212. Senior nets also began at Birchwood School on 8<sup>th</sup> February for 10 weeks until 12<sup>th</sup> April. Start time is 11.00am (except Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March which is at 9.00am). Senior nets are being shared with Hatfield Heath CC. The AGM is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at Stansted FC Clubhouse 7.30pm for 8.00pm. All members are encouraged to attend if possible. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge  
Hon Secretary  
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Email: dchedge49@gmail.com

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our February meeting we had two presentations: one as below and one from Nigel Collingwood on the Magna Carta celebrations, which will be in next month's Link.

### The Montfichets by Peter Saunders

The first Lord of Stansted and Bentfield was Robert Gernon from Bayeux, who built our motte and bailey castle.

Richard Montfichet was a large French landowner who, after the Battle of Hastings in 1066 took Barony from Robert Gernon becoming commander of a Montfichet's tower in London at Ludgate Hill. Generations later the Barony home moved to a castle and deer park of several hundred acres at or near to Stansted, probably part of Hatfield Forest. It was thought that Gilbert Montfichet in the early 1100s built St Mary's Church; then he or his son Richard established Thremhall Priory for the monks of the Augustine order. Richard went to France in 1194 with King Richard I and in 1202 was Governor of the castle of Hertford and Sheriff of Hertfordshire and Essex. He later went on a pilgrimage to Rome where he died. His

son, the Richard depicted on our village signs, joined the Barons who fought against King John resulting in the dismantling of his castles in London and Stansted and loss of his title, Keeper of the Forest of Essex. Following the rebellion and sealing of the Magna Carta, Richard reclaimed his titles and lands. But when he was caught aiding the French King Richard against King John, he was imprisoned and lost his titles and lands again, but had them reinstated once more when Henry III became king. Following the destruction of his castle it is thought that Richard built a fortified manor house in the ruins where the court was held until the 16th century. He died in 1267 and appears to be buried in St Paul's cathedral.

At our next meeting on 5th March 8.00 pm at the Crafton Green Centre, Chapel Hill, the subject will be 'A nice cup of tea' by Tim Turner. All welcome, refreshments provided.



Steve Leaney  
Tel: 647177

### MANUDEN SINGERS

Our Spring Concert is at 7.30pm on Sunday 12th April in St Mary's Church, Manuden when the Manuden Singers, players and soloists will perform Haydn's *The Seasons – Spring and Summer*, and Handel's Anthem *O Sing unto the Lord*. Tickets £10 (£5 children) from 812157 or on the door. All proceeds to be donated to local charities.

Teresa Priest  
Tel: 647050



THE HUNDRED PARISHES  
SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 is on 15th June. That document, sealed by King John, is widely recognised as a key step in the development of democracy in this country and across the English-speaking world. The anniversary will be celebrated through a series of events. The Magna Carta resulted from a revolt by many of King John's barons. Under clause 61 of the document, a committee of 25 barons was appointed to ensure that the king complied with the terms of the agreement. Three of those barons had their principal manors in what is now the Hundred Parishes: Robert Fitzwalter of Little Dunmow, Geoffrey de Mandeville of Pleshey and Robert de Montfichet of Stansted Mountfitchet. Each parish is planning a range of activities, mostly in May and June, and details will be included in the What's On page of our website.

From January to March, snowdrops can be seen in many of our churchyards. Great Amwell always has a spectacular display, as does Birchanger Wood. Both are on walk routes on our website. Great Amwell is on route number 19 that covers four miles from St Margaret's station to Ware station, whilst Birchanger Wood is on walk number nine – a six mile route from Bishop's Stortford station to Stansted station. Another popular snowdrop venue is the Gardens of Easton Lodge which has an open day on Sunday 1st March.

Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

### EASTER EXPLAINED

One Sunday in March after the service  
The church had emptied apart from one, Curtis  
"So why is Easter a moveable feast?"  
The young lad asked of the hungry priest

Who sighed as he'd just covered all that  
In his sermon delivered in 15 minutes flat!  
The boy's attention had obviously strayed  
From the wise words being displayed



Patiently the priest, despite rumbling tum  
Explained once more the Easter phenomenon  
In simple language easily understood  
By Curtis who listened closely, as indeed he should

"And from ancient times," concluded Reverend Michael  
"Easter Day's been set by the moon's cycle."  
The boy looked up at his dad, the priest  
"But why is Easter a moveable feast?"

And Michael replied as all dads do  
When all else has failed and it's quarter to two,  
"Because it is. Now come along hurry  
We're late for lunch and it's mum's special curry."

Loki

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## BIRCHANGER WOOD

www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

Well, when March arrives, our beautiful wood anemones could be flowering - a wonderful carpet of white petals with dark green foliage, across the woodland floor. The date for their appearance can be in March or April since they are dependent upon weather conditions during these months. Those of you who purchased the Stop Stansted Expansion calendar for 2015 will see a beautiful photograph of our wood anemones decorating their page for April. The Trust is just completing its first year of operations using the new compound. This has turned out really well, with the minor exception that with the arrival of winter 2014/15, the compound has been overwhelmed by very muddy ground conditions impeding the use of machinery. Also the manufacture of tree protection baskets and general work in the compound has been extremely difficult; the collection of wood for sale, rather 'interesting' and has prevented the regular use by St Elizabeth's School and our other local voluntary groups and individuals. We are seeking funds to purchase some 40 tons of fine granite, a liner membrane and some pressure-treated wood to retain it and thereby overcome this issue. Even by having our own inimitable woodland volunteers to carry out this heavy task, we need to raise £2,000 for the materials. So far we have been promised £500 from Herts County Council and £750 from the Bishop's Stortford Town Council. Any other help will be very gratefully received. The mud is not affecting the paths, so please continue your normal activities. In addition you will be very welcome to visit the compound on a Saturday and meet the voluntary woodland workers. If you wish to make a donation to Birchanger Wood, this can be done through the Paypal donation button on our website, or cheque/cash in person by visiting the compound at Birchanger Wood's main entrance by the Water Tower. This is usually open Saturdays 9.00am-10.00am and 2.00pm-3.00pm - take the public footpath off Heath Row, opposite house no 148.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis  
Secretary and Trustee

Email: [secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org](mailto:secretary@birchangerwoodtrust.org)



**Carpet Bowls** Continuing to be very well supported on a Tuesday afternoon, also on Friday evening if that is more convenient - all welcome at either of these times or by mutual arrangement. Come and have a go, it is great fun.

**Turpins indoor seniors** Consistent results so far, but congratulations on a good overall win on 29<sup>th</sup> January - may this continue in the next few games left!

**Darts Team** Having some success - still more games to come so good luck to you all.

**The Green** Looking good, and work will soon start to prepare for the beginning of the season. See Club notice board for work party dates. For information about the Club please call or email us - we would love to hear from you.

Doreen Scraggs  
Hon Secretary

Tel: 815036 or 07812 483178

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



## INNER WHEEL

Ladies of the Inner Wheel Club hosted a colourful Indian Evening on 10<sup>th</sup> January at the Day Centre, with a variety of Indian food being served to 50 members and their guests -



many wearing saris and other items of Indian clothing. As 10<sup>th</sup> January was International Inner Wheel Day, members decided to celebrate by inviting Greta Paradine-Palmer, author, embroiderer and much travelled lady, to talk about her love of India, its peoples, and in particular the Indian elephants and their ornate draperies. She had travelled

from Northamptonshire, and her interesting slide show and humorous anecdotes kept everyone chuckling throughout the evening. All profits are divided between the Club's international charities. The Inner Wheel Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Day Centre. New members warmly welcome. For further details, please contact me.



Brenda Cox  
President  
Tel: 812191

Email [brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk](mailto:brenda@coxco.demon.co.uk)

## CASTLE MALTINGS – OUR NEW HEALTH CENTRE

By the time you read this the Surgery/NHS England should have signed the 20 years' lease for our health centre. Cllr Maureen Caton and Ray Woodcock attended the NHS West Essex CCG (NHSWECCG) Board meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> January. The papers for the meeting held two months earlier, under matters arising, say, "NHS England have written to the practice (Redlands Surgery) confirming their intention to commission services from the site at 2 Lower Street for the length of the lease. The practice has been advised by the BMA that this should be presented as a legally binding document. The practice's lawyer is drafting this which will then be considered by NHS England. There are smaller issues, but this is the key issue which will determine when the agreement to lease can be signed and the project can move to the next phase". Peter Wightman, WE CCG Director of Primary Care and Localities said that the lease should be signed within a few days. As a number of people who have to sign the lease at the same time have not been available, we will have to wait a little longer. He will inform us which services will be available from the health centre, including an NHS dentist. We have waited 45 years for this centre; now we must wait until mid-2016, possibly earlier, before it is handed over to the NHS. In the meantime we can watch construction of this fine building. I hope all will agree this is the most important new build in our village for many years.

Ray Woodcock

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# NATURE OR NURTURE?



*As seen along the footpath from Church Road to St Mary's Church.*



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

As reported last month, with the team now entering a critical part of the season which will determine the final league placing, our form has been excellent; victories over local rival Sawbridgeworth, league leaders Haringey Borough and Clapton (in front of their boisterous but good-natured support who add great atmosphere to every ground they attend), have seen us climb into the top seven places in the league. We have already surpassed our target of beating last season's points tally so who knows what total we shall achieve by the last game on 26<sup>th</sup> April. The pitch continues to hold up despite the recent snow and wet weather, and again shows that the work put in last summer will allow us to play catch up on a backlog of fixtures throughout the month of March. Thanks to the Stansted Sports Association who have financially supported us in refurbishing our Clubhouse, we are pleased to announce that the Clubhouse is now available to hire for private functions. Please contact our Chairman, Glyn Warwick (email Stanstedfc@yahoo.co.uk) or myself for details.

### Upcoming Home Fixtures:

3 <sup>rd</sup> March	v Bowers & Pitsea	KO 7.45pm
7 <sup>th</sup> March	v Thurrock Reserves	KO 2.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> March	v FC Romania	KO 7.45pm
14 <sup>th</sup> March	v Sawbridgeworth Reserves	KO 2.00pm
21 <sup>st</sup> March	v Sporting Bengal	KO 3.00pm
28 <sup>th</sup> March	v Barking Reserves	KO 2.00pm



Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842



## Nature Notes

Although the shortest month, February can seem the longest. With March comes new life; winter aconites make way for snowdrops, and snowdrops for celandines, then the catkins - followed by new leaves, and now the cherries, both decorative and 'real'.



Every winter brings a decimation of the bird population, followed by nesting and rebirth. In areas such as ours there is space for regeneration, so that while mankind is frequently cast as 'the villain', there should be scope for us to provide the essentials. A hedge has always been a favourite site, together with projecting house eaves, and, of course, trees. Martins, sparrows, robins and tits are dependent on us to leave such features undisturbed between March and June. This is no time for hedge-cutting and wholesale clearances of cosy corners, as any hedgehog, slowworm or shrew would tell you if they could - quite apart from the feathered species! Please resist any urge to 'clean up' such places, and enjoy the sight of the fledglings. The domestic moggy has earned a bad reputation as a domestic predator, but over time our wildlife has learned to adapt. Defer your bonfires and strimming!

Please let The Link Editor know of any unusual happening or sighting you may notice - other readers may not be so fortunate.

A question: Have you seen muntjac lately? Maybe I am too sheltered as I have not seen any!



Derek Honour

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## THE J'S HOSPICE 'CHRISTMAS CAROL'

Richard Curtis and Ben Elton allowed the Chelmsford Theatre Workshop (CTW) permission to produce a stage version of the BBC Historical Comedy 'Blackadder', raising nearly £2400 for The J's Hospice. Money was also raised for the Old Court Theatre over the Christmas period. CTW is a local charity itself, where anyone is welcomed to act on the stage, help behind the scenes or be part of the front of house team. This Christmas saw an enthusiastic cast of 14 (led once more by family directing team Dean and Katherine Hempstead and Sue Tokley) take to the stage to produce a festive edition with 'Blackadder's Christmas Carol'. All cast and crew (the often unsung heroes) worked hard from September learning lines, finding characters, singing ridiculous versions of carols, sourcing the oddest array of props and costumes (futuristic helmet or flying squirrel, anyone?) and digging out the holly and ivy to decorate the



set and foyer of the theatre. The J's Hospice employees and patients were invited to the final dress rehearsal and enjoyed an unrestricted evening of comedy. The atmosphere in the theatre was one of warmth, laughter and enthusiasm from both the audience (around 100 each evening) and the cast backstage, who couldn't wait to run around the front during the intervals to sell raffle tickets and be part of the festive spirit. More than one audience member was heard to say "I feel all Christmassy now" ... Only 30% of The J's funding comes from statutory sources so this sort of support from the local community goes a long way towards the remaining 70%! Find out more about the work of The J's Hospice, which is exclusively for young adults, at our website [www.thejshospice.org.uk](http://www.thejshospice.org.uk).

Nikki Perry  
Communications Manager  
Tel: 01245 475474 Ext. 3103

## NEWS FROM ESSEX POLICE



In October Essex Community Messaging (ECM) was launched to give residents in Essex a chance to receive up to date information via email, text or voice message. This information comes directly from Essex Police officers, Essex Watch liaison officers and other partners, including Neighbourhood Watch. Free of charge and specifically designed

for Essex residents, the messaging system is jointly funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner, and money seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Act. ECM gives you the option to select the information that you want to receive to make you aware of issues happening in your area and offering you advice. Nick Alston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex explained that Essex Community Messaging will get key crime and crime prevention information out to communities faster than ever before. It will also improve the two-way flow of information about community safety between Essex Police, Neighbourhood and other Watch groups, and the people of Essex. ECM will provide a crucial new channel for keeping our communities safe, and he urged everyone to register now for it. Alan Johnson, Chair of the Essex County Neighbourhood Watch Association also welcomed the new messaging system saying that it will improve the NHW's ability to help Essex Police reduce the level of crime across the county. Whether it is involving local people in the search for a vulnerable missing person or simply to pass on advice on how to keep safe, ECM will transform the speed and effectiveness of communication across Essex. You can sign up to ECM on [www.essexcommunitymessaging.org](http://www.essexcommunitymessaging.org) or visit [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) for more information. If you do not have internet access at home you can visit Stansted Library, or if you prefer you can register by calling 01613 272616.

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I must apologise for missing the deadline for the February Link. However, more donations have since been received, taking the Stansted village total for the 2014 Appeal to a magnificent £6048.62. I thank all for giving so generously and not least Sarah Murdoch, the co-ordinator for the village collectors and outlets who had poppies on display. To Claire Dent, the first volunteer on Forest Hill my huge thanks, and I hope that many others will do the same this year. The centenary of the outbreak of WWI was in 2014 and that and the beautiful poppies at the Tower of London are probably what made the difference to a 'normal' annual appeal. Besides the other villages of Stansted District, (Elsenham, Henham, Farnham, Manuden and Ugley), we also have a display in the Airport Terminal, shared with Takeley, for the fortnight running up to Remembrance Sunday. The total for this District has now surpassed all expectations reaching £18,167.53, a 47% rise on 2013. Thank you to all. I assure you the money raised will be used wisely.



John L Segar  
Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser  
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	Mercer & Hughes	OBC		Lino Thomas	OBC
<b>Art and Craft</b>	Millway Stationery	IFC		Nicky & Co	OBC
<b>Building</b>	A C Wright Building Contractors	36	<b>Halls for Hire</b>	Forest Hall School	10
<b>Services</b>	Bareham Overy (Architects)	36		Ugley Village Hall	10
	Churchills General Builders	36	<b>Household</b>	Ken Carpet Fitter	32
	D S Designs (Architects)	IFC	<b>Furnishings</b>	Stort Blinds	IFC
	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	36	<b>Household</b>	D C Alarms	28
	David Fortune (Builder)	34	<b>Installations</b>	Mediacomms	28
	Vester Property Services	36		SDS Aerials	28
<b>Carpentry</b>	Furniture by Design	34		Stortford Audio	28
	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	36	<b>Hypnotherapy</b>	Glynis Cheers	12
	Nouvelle Carpentry & Building	34		Helen Bartram	12
<b>Cleaning</b>	Chimney Sweep & Stoves	16	<b>Jeweller</b>	John Wilson	16
	Clear Ovens	16	<b>Leisure</b>	Elsenham Golf Club	IBC
	Domestic Goddesses	IBC		LivingWell Health Club	28
	Ecaterina Domestic Cleaning	16	<b>Motor Services</b>	Bikes Wanted	18
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	16		D Bonney & Sons	28
	Herts & Essex Carpet Cleaning	16		Conway Chauffeur Drive	IFC
	Oven Bright	16		Hilton Rental	24
	Village Chimney Sweep	16		J & R Cars	24
<b>Community &amp; Care</b>	Hearing Help	12	<b>Painting &amp; Decorating</b>	Ada Decorating	32
	Helpline	16		Brown's Painting & Decorating	32
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	24		David Duncan Decorating	32
	Native American & Cavalry League	16		Lesley Anne (Decorating)	32
	Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club	26		MWR Interiors	32
<b>Computing</b>	MCM Computer Services	10		Ray on the Hill	32
	Taylor Computer Services	10		Shutes Painting & Decorating	32
<b>Dance</b>	Graham School of Dance	8	<b>Personal Services</b>	T F Plastering	32
	Mitchell School of Dance	8		Essential Gem (Beauty)	12
<b>Dental</b>	Simply Teeth	8		George Cooper (Physiotherapy)	6
<b>Education &amp; Children</b>	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	10		R Handford (Chiropody)	6
	Learn to Ride	10		Julie Golden (Chiropody)	10
	Music Lessons	10		Lower Street Clinic	6
	Monique's Childminding	10		Stansted Chiropactic	6
	Rainbow Pre-School	18		Stansted Psychotherapy	12
	St Nicholas School	12		Williams (Osteopath)	6
	Tuition	10	<b>Photography</b>	Photosound	26
<b>Electrical</b>	Albury Electrical Services	30	<b>Pilates</b>	Akasha Wellness (Pilates & Yoga)	8
	Dean Mason	34		Back to Basics (Pilates)	8
	Ethical Electrical	30		Tone Pilates	8
	Stansted Electric	30	<b>Plumbing &amp; Heating</b>	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
<b>Financial &amp; Legal</b>	Greenways Financial Planning	26		JDW Gas Heating Specialist	34
	Lever & Co Solicitors	18		Jones & Co (Plumbing & Heating))	30
	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC		Knight Plumbing	30
	Mosby Financial Service	26		KS Group Heating & Plumbing	30
<b>Food</b>	Crimson 8 Chinese	24		Newman's Home Services	30
	Lower Street Brasserie	IBC		Orion Heating	30
	Pino Pizzeria & Grill	24	<b>Printing</b>	Stansted Gas Services	30
	Sonargow Indian	24		CZ Design & Print	28
<b>Funeral Services</b>	Daniel Robinson & Sons	18	<b>Property Maintenance &amp; Improvement</b>	Aaran Glass	36
	J Day & Son	16		Camwood Home Improvements	30
	D C Poulton & Sons	18		Do-It-4U	34
<b>Garden Services</b>	N W Brown (Landscapes)	38		Fairweather Windows	IFC
	Cox Farm & Forestry	38		Finch and Son	OBC
	Crystal Clear Ponds	34		Garden & Property Maintenance	36
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC		Herts & Essex Window Doctor	36
	H2O Plants	OBC	<b>Retailers</b>	Todd Welding & Fabrication	36
	Steve Hall Garden Services	38		Family News (Londis)	10
	Lawn Supremacy	38		Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	IFC
	Mowtivated	38	<b>Spiritualists</b>	Arthur Findlay College	18
	Gill Owen (Gardening Services)	38	<b>Travel</b>	Absolute Travel	IBC
	The Secret Gardener	38	<b>Will Writing</b>	Herts & Essex Wills	24
	Uppercut Trees	38		The Will Practice	IBC

IFC - Inside Front Cover

IBC - Inside Back Cover

OBC - Outside Back Cover

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