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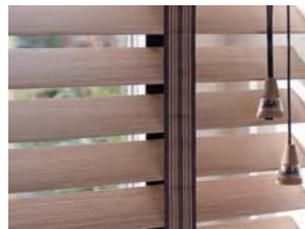
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 by email (*preferred*) up to 300 words in a Word document, please, to:
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

or by hand to:
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 Stansted CM24 8HG
 5 Greenfields,
 Stansted CM24 8AH

by noon on 11th November for the December/January issue.

The Link is an independent publication supported by local churches, businesses and the Parish Council. Each edition is also available on line at www.stanstedlink.org.uk

EDITORIAL



Once known as 'pot-hole alley' Stansted has now become 'road works city' with trenches and traffic lights appearing all over the village. We're assured that the short-term pain of delays and traffic chaos will result in long-term gain for us all. Time will tell! At least the traffic calming measures in Church Road seem to be having the desired effect making the road a lot safer for all the schoolchildren and other pedestrians.

Our lovely colourful front cover, courtesy of Stansted photographer Chris Campbell, heralds an exciting new era for 'The Link' magazine. We've taken the decision to change the front cover every month from now on, instead of quarterly. We're always looking at ways of improving 'The Link', and this will give us the opportunity to feature more topical images on the cover. As a community magazine we rely on your contributions and are always happy to receive any fresh ideas, articles, photos and your comments – good or bad! So please don't hide your light under a bushel; get in touch with us and share your talents and views.

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Stansted network is compiled by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Dear Friends

This year Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday are on the same day and the interest and indeed support for these days seems to grow year on year. I believe this is a healthy sign that our younger generation care about the past as well as the present. This is important, not least because we need to learn from the past and the present for the shape of all our futures. I pray that as our Nation remembers, we will all dig deep for the British Legion because the work that they do with servicemen and women past, present and future is amazing and vital. They are providing wonderful rehabilitation facilities and family space for those who have suffered devastating injuries, and they have promised to finance these places for years to come and remember the sacrifice made by young servicemen and women, past and present.

In the Bible we read some words of Jesus asking us to give of ourselves in remembrance of Him. When Jesus and the apostles were together eating Passover for the last time at what we call 'The last supper', Luke reports the meal like this. "... I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." NIV Luke 22:14-19. The greatest sacrifice that could be made for humanity was about to happen and Jesus asks all of us to remember.

The British Legion's work is constant and on-going with and for the injured and their families. For those of us who are Christians, we should be remembering and living out Jesus' teachings; if we are going to be effective for Him we need to be 24/7 Christians not just occasional ones. Jesus said, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." What more could possibly be given for us? What an amazing God we worship.

Every blessing

David Keeble
Free Church



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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for November

4th 10.30am Don McGregor – New Directions
11th 10.50am At St John's - Remembrance
18th 10.30am Rev'd David Keeble - Communion
25th 10.30am Gordon Doyle

The Place on the Hill

The refurbishment of the foyer is now complete, ready for the opening of *The Place* on 31st October. See elsewhere in 'The Link' for details of our new drop-in every Wednesday 9.30am-12.30pm, offering free Fairtrade ground coffee and other refreshments, WiFi internet, computers, a place to 'chill out', somewhere for the kids to play, books to read and borrow, and more. All welcome.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Quaker Meeting House, Chapel Hill

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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux
High Lane

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

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

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



Shalom

On Monday 12th November at 7 Blythwood Gardens we welcome back Stuart Veitch, who will be leading a bible study. Our 'At home' on Monday 26th November is at 62 St John's Road. All are welcome. Both meetings start at 8.00pm.

Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

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

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

8.30am Morning Prayer
(9.00am on Saturday) There are services of Holy

Tuesday
9.15am-10.30am St John's Tots

Wednesday
8.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Monday-Thursday and Saturday
5.00pm Evening Prayer and Broome End Nursing Homes.

From the Registers

September

Baptisms

9th Reece Benjamin Barry
16th Ami Faye Shad
Thomas Andrew Shad
Grace Elizabeth Hounslow
23rd Aleisha Winnie-May White
Lexie Rose Ann Jane White
Ethan Daniel White

Marriage

9th Desmond Keehan and Emma Jane Flook

Funerals

6th Patricia Pope, age 79 years - at St Mary's followed by burial in Stansted Cemetery
13th Norman Gray, age 74 - at Parndon Wood

ST JOHN'S NEWS

Christmas Market Saturday 24th November 12 noon-3.00pm in the church. Gifts, crafts, toiletries, candles, cakes, toys and games, books, bric-a-brac, tombolas and grand raffle, etc, together with tempting refreshments to enjoy whilst savouring the festive ambience. Come along to find some Christmas presents, grab a bargain, have a chance of winning a great prize in our raffle or on one of the tombolas and generally join in the fun. Hope to see **EVERYONE** there!



300 Club

Congratulations to the winners of the September draws:

£100 No 50 - Edward Laird
£ 50 No 73 - M Shewry
£ 25 No 151 - John Jaques

The November draws are on Sunday 25th November.

Francine Cope
Tel: 814562

St John's Tots

Every Tuesday morning at 9.00am parents with their 'tots' arrive to join in the activities in this welcoming venue in the centre of the village. Children enjoy the stories and music specially arranged for them, there is juice and the chance to play with other children. Mums have the opportunity to chat and enjoy a coffee in a relaxed atmosphere in a beautiful place. Come and join us; we would love to see you.

Derek Francis
Tel: 812520



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Festival of Angels, Christmas Trees and Carols
Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th December

Our Christmas tree festival last year gave great pleasure to many visitors, and we look forward to hosting the event again. We have invited village organisations, business and charities to fill a space with a Christmas tree or an angel (or both) in whatever form of material you choose. We know we have many artistic, imaginative and talented residents - remembering some of the displays of Christmas trees and decorations from last year, and angels, like trees, come in all shapes and sizes! The church will be open between 10.00am and 5.00pm each day and there will be no charge for entry but we hope for contributions. Refreshments, Christmas fare, mulled wine and mince pies will be on sale throughout the weekend. Saturday afternoon at 3.30pm will be the highlight of the weekend, when we invite all our visitors to join in 'Carols for all' a truly joyful occasion when we hope for a big congregation united in singing in the old church. Invitations have been sent out to local organisations but individual presentations will be most welcome. The response last year was greater than we could have hoped for and we look forward to even more exhibitors this year. Please contact Sally Argent on 812418, email: argent62@btinternet.com or myself for a booking form.



Audrey Rodgers
Chairman
Tel: 812162

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

For those of you who missed the choral evensong service at St Mary's Church, Stansted on Sunday 23 September, I am sorry.

As a long-time resident of Stansted I remember the services that used to be held at this church, but time moves on and I understand this is no longer viable.

The augmented choir under Philip Cowling, and superb organist, gave us a treat of some great music that will long be remembered - congratulations to everyone concerned. The acoustics at our beautiful church were used to great effect.

I am sure the weather deterred some people from coming but I recommend you do not miss the next one, which I hope will be planned in the not too distant future.

Encore, Encore!!!!

Derek Francis

Dear Sir,

As someone who was brought up in Uttlesford, I was extremely excited to move back to the district earlier this year after 20 years on the mean streets of Braintree. I felt sure that life in Stansted would be an entirely more civilised affair for me and my children, but how wrong I was. It seems that a depressing number of people - both young and old - show a shocking disregard for other people's property and privacy and indeed common decency.

Imagine my horror to discover that grown men think it acceptable to walk down the alleyway along the side of my home in Chapel Hill and - after publicly picking up their pet's faeces - then dump bags of dog dirt next to my gate, out of sight of their neighbours. Others use the alley to fly tip all manner of household refuse under cover of darkness.

Some children seem to share their parents' dirty habits. I've had a young boy URINATING against my wall. Only when I remonstrated with him, asking how he would feel if I followed him home and used his garden as a toilet, did he seem to understand that his behaviour was socially unacceptable. Likewise the teenager I caught putting rubbish into the ventilation duct into my home seemed surprised that I would have any problem with him using my property as a dump, but was less keen on me accompanying him home to ask his parents if I could litter their front room. Apparently the answer to the question "Why?" is just "Because".

Others think nothing of leaving drink containers and sweet wrappers where they fall. The newly rendered wall of my neighbour's house has already been graffitied and gates I've just fixed are casually vandalised.

Under the veneer of a well-to-do village, there are some people with no manners.

Name and address supplied

FLEAS AND OTHER VISITORS!

We certainly seem to be inundated by itchy pets at the moment. Every second animal last week seemed to have the odd visitor or two! Just when we thought we'd got over the harvest mite season; it seems that fleas and ticks have taken over. People are often mortified that their cats and dogs have fleas and take it as a personal affront on their household hygiene, but the truth is that fleas like clean houses too, and I'll let you into a secret - even Broccoli managed to pick up one or two last month. We noticed that he was scratching more than normal and being a typical vet I ignored it for a couple of days! It wasn't until I was telling him to stop scratching and he'd taken to sloping off and hiding under the bath, where he could have a good scratch in private, that I thought I should do something. When I parted the fur near his tail (a flea's favourite place), a little brown thing pinged off onto the carpet. We then played 'Hunt the Flea' which involves crawling around the floor, shouting 'got it' while simultaneously picking up random bits of dirt and fluff. Once we'd wasted a good 15 minutes we turned our attention to Broccoli who was looking a little bored and like he just wanted to get back under the bath for another scratch. He was, of course, groomed vigorously to within an inch of his life with a flea comb, thoroughly dosed with Frontline Combo and given a tapeworm tablet for good measure. (We all, of course, remember that the flea life cycle goes through the tapeworm and so if your cat or dog has fleas, it should be wormed too.) We also sprayed the carpet for good measure. I have to say it did take a few days for all the fleas to die and for Broccoli to stop scratching, during which time he rarely left the bathroom, as every time he did, he was pounced on and given another good flea combing, poor thing!

It did bring it home to me how thorough you have to be when getting rid of fleas. We often have clients come in that have spent over a hundred pounds on supermarket or pet shop products that simply haven't been effective. The golden rules are:

1. Get your flea and worm products from your vet; we can sell products that are more effective than supermarkets
2. Treat all your animals in the house on the same day
3. Repeat the treatment at the correct interval until all the fleas have gone.

So finally after a few weeks of the correct treatment, I'm happy to say that Broccoli is officially a flea free zone and peace has been restored to the Pedler house!

Ilse Pedler

'THE LINK' AGM

Stansted 'Link' Magazine CIC will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Parish Council Office at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th November. All parishioners are welcome, so do come along if you have any matter to raise, or have an interest in our operation.

Derek Honour
Chairman
Tel: 647213

Shoe Boxes for Operation Christmas Child

7 pm onwards Mon 5th Nov
Free Church Hall

Come for coffee and bring along your fully or partly completed shoe boxes



For more information tel
813579, 814865 or 812109
or see Link article

All welcome



60s & 70s Disco

7.30 pm Sat 10th Nov
St John's Hall

Tickets £12 includes
Fish & Chip supper
available from

Maggie 503848 or Jan 812481
Members may bring friends



Karl Jenkins - The Armed Man
Leonard Bernstein - Chichester Psalms

7.30 pm Sat 10th Nov
St Mary's Church, S Walden

£15 adults, £12 concessions
Tickets from 01799 531127,
S Walden Tourist Office,

email: tickets@swchoral.org.uk
www.wegotickets.com or at the door

VILLAGE EVENTS

November

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Sat	Fireworks and Bonfire	Elms Farm from 6.30 pm
5	Mon	Shoe Box Evening	Free Church Hall 7 - 9 pm
6 & 20	Tue	Food for Thought	Venue tbc 7.45 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Club	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
9	Fri	NCT Make and Do	St John's Hall 10 - 11.30 am
10 & 24		Sat Skips	Lower St Car Park 9 am - 3 pm
10	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
		U3A 60s & 70s Night	St John's Hall 7.30 pm
		S Walden Choral Society	St Mary's, S Walden 7.30 pm
11	Sun	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
12	Mon	Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
14	Wed	Christmas Shopping Evening	Bentfield School 7.30 - 10 pm
15	Thu	U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
		WI	St John's Hall 7.45 pm
17	Sat	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
20	Tue	Link AGM	Parish Council Offices 7.30 pm
21	Wed	Windmill Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
22	Thu	Rainbow Pamper Evening	Day Centre 7 pm
23	Fri	Lib Dem Constituency Dinner	Henham Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm
24	Sat	Christmas Market	St John's Church 12 - 3 pm
25	Sun	Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 9.30 - 11 am
26	Mon	Shalom At Home	62 St John's Road 8 pm
27	Tue	Foresthall Residents' AGM	St Mary's School (new) 7.30 pm



Bentfield School PTFA

invite you to their
Christmas Shopping Evening

7.30 - 10 pm
Wed 14th Nov

Lots of retailers with crafts & gifts

Bring your friends and Christmas lists!

Admission £3 incl glass of bubbly



Stansted Millers

Coffee Morning

10 am - noon
Wed 21st Nov
Day Centre

Mill Goods ~ Cakes

Entry £1

(incl tea/coffee & mince pie)



Friends of St Mary's
Church

Angels & Christmas Tree Festival

10 am - 5 pm

Sat 15th & Sun 16th December

Carols for All

3.30 pm Saturday 15th

Mulled wine, mince pies and other refreshments

Everyone Welcome



Celebration of
Christmas



Carols, Music, Readings, and Poetry

3 pm Sat 22nd December

St John's Church

Followed by mulled wine & shortbread

All welcome to this annual village event celebrating the birth of the Christ child



LADIES

PAMPER EVENING

Come and Treat Yourself!

7 pm Thurs 22nd Nov

Day Centre

Entry £11

incl treatment & glass of wine

Lots of interesting stalls

music@stansted

Gary Ryan Guitar

Includes music by Bach, Praetorius
John Dowland and Villa-Lobos

3 pm Sunday 2nd December
St John's Church

Tickets £12 adults, £1 children
from Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford;
Stansted Carpets; Sonia Levy 815282,
or at the door



Bentfield School PTFA

Christmas Fair

2 - 5 pm Sat 1st Dec

Santa's Grotto ~ Raffle

Stalls ~ Mulled Wine

Lots of Games to Play

Admission FREE!

**St John's Church
Christmas Market**

12 - 3 pm

Sat 24th November

Gifts ~ Tombolas ~ Toiletries
Toys ~ Games ~ Cakes ~ Books
Crafts ~ Candles ~ Raffle

Admission Free ~ Refreshments

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THE PLACE ON THE HILL

Come to the newly refurbished foyer of the Free Church, every Wednesday from 9.30am-12.30pm, starting on 31st October. No need to bring your purse, everything is free of charge. Whether you are a young mum or dad, carer, home-maker, unemployed, working, retired, feeling alone, just need a place to have a sit before walking up or down Chapel Hill - or none of these!! - then a warm welcome awaits you at **The Place on the Hill**.



Come and try out our comfy sofas and armchairs and enjoy a cup of Fairtrade ground coffee or one of our selection of teas and soft drinks, accompanied by light refreshments and fresh fruit ... **The Place** offers this and more ... good company, WiFi internet, computers, a place to 'chill out' and escape the telephone, somewhere for the kids to play, books to read and borrow. For more details please contact the Free Church Team: Marion and Mike 814059, Fran 812748, Catherine 813579 or Betty 813977. We look forward to seeing you.

Marion Dyer



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Sunday 7th October was our last weekend opening for 2012. We had visitors who were very interested in the mill and they enjoyed their tour. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the millers and stewards who have helped to make this a successful year. We will re-open Easter weekend 31st March/1st April 2013. In the interim we will, of course, open for any groups, both adults and children, by pre-arrangement. I do have the usual cards and gifts available and if anyone would like to purchase anything please give me a ring. Steve, our engineer, will be working on the mill from time to time so if you see him up there do give him a wave as you are passing.

We are having a Coffee Morning on Wednesday 21st November from 10.00am to 12 noon in the Day Centre. Please come and join us. Entry fee is only £1 which includes coffee/tea with mince pies etc. I look forward to seeing you.

Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768



More than 300 children are rushed to hospital each week with hot drink scalds. Most of them are very young children aged just one or two. As burns experts from across the world consider how to reduce the massive impact of children's burns on communities, the staff at Spangles Children's Centre are calling on Stansted parents to be aware of the potential danger.

Babies and very young children are the most vulnerable, as Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) Chief Executive Katrina Phillips points out: "Hot drink accidents peak at the age of one or two, with babies and young toddlers pulling a mug of tea or coffee onto themselves. It's because they're mobile and so inquisitive, but with no understanding of danger. It takes a split second for their lives and their parents' lives to be turned upside down, sometimes permanently. Children can suffer badly from the scarring, but the emotional scarring can be just as bad. Even simple things like swimming or sports events can become something to be dreaded. Serious scalds can create a lifetime of guilt for parents who feel responsible for the accident." CAPT has put together advice for parents on preventing common childhood burns and scalds:

Top tips for preventing burns

- A baby's skin is 15 times thinner than an adult's. Make sure you put your baby down before picking up your hot drink. Then you don't have to worry about them wriggling or grabbing it.
- A hot drink left standing for as long as ten minutes can scald a baby or toddler in less than two seconds. Put your hot drink down well out of reach from little hands. Think of safe places in your home for hot drinks where you know your child can't reach.
- Don't pass hot drinks over a baby or young child's head in case it spills on them.
- Medical professionals count bath water scalds as one of the worst injuries a child can suffer. Put the cold water in the bath first and top up with hot. If you put the hot in first, there's a danger a toddler could climb or fall in when your back is turned and be badly scalded.
- Hair straighteners can get as hot as your iron and stay very hot for up to eight minutes after they are switched off. Switch them off after use and put them out of children's reach and sight. Don't leave them to cool over a door handle.
- Keep the kettle at the back of the worktop and try to use the back rings of the cooker to avoid little hands grabbing them.

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IN MEMORIAM

QUEENIE ROSEMARY BROWN

8th DECEMBER 1940-27th JULY 2012

On 8th December 1940 Mr and Mrs Morton brought into this world the wonderful gift of a baby daughter 'Queenie', who grew to love Stansted, and was in turn loved by all who knew her. Queenie was always full of happiness when she was helping someone and often recalled shopping for Miss Kitson, Mrs Caton and many others in the village. Her early school days were spent at Stansted School. A class photograph taken in 1950 shows Queenie one of 24 girls, and just two boys one of which was, of course, me! She then went onto Saffron Walden School travelling there by Mayhew's bus, and on Saturdays worked at Woolworth's. On leaving school Queenie worked as a secretary for William Gee & Sons Solicitors where she made many lasting friendships.

Queenie loved watching football and cricket and could throw a cricket ball really hard. We often practised fielding, but despite my best efforts she could never throw it gently! It was through sitting together on the coach to Southend on a cricket club outing that our lasting partnership emerged. We were married on October 30th 1965, and moved straight into our cottage in Bentfield Green on our return from honeymoon. In 1968 our wonderful son, Paul was born and in 1970 we



moved to Recreation Ground, and soon along came another wonderful son, Nigel. Not long after that Mr Morton informed us that he considered that was now enough, so that is where it stayed, and as a family with Queenie's beloved black cats we were blessed to spend so many happy years together. Family holidays were enjoyed in Norfolk and Queenie would think nothing of cooking a full Sunday roast in our little 'no mod cons' caravan!

I cannot recall Queenie ever saying a bad or harsh word against anyone in all the time I have known her. That must be something very special. If sometimes on a Friday night I may have been delayed getting away from the club, a look would suffice!

Queenie had so many interests that included many hours of fun at keep fit classes, netball, cricket teas, bowls suppers, the windmill, History Society, Fire Service jumble sales and the WI. She also collected for all charities especially the Poppy Appeal and the Lifeboats. In the early years she also helped as a Sunday School teacher in the old Central Hall (now The Old Courthouse), and of course she had the 'Avon' round with her well renowned bicycle.

Queenie's love for sport never faded and we felt so proud when we were able to witness, together with her carer, the Olympic Torch being carried through the village with Queenie waving her flag and meeting many good friends. Unfortunately she was to suffer in her last few years but Queenie fought bravely to the end. She is sadly missed by myself, all her extended family and her many friends in Stansted and elsewhere. Queenie was a very special lady.

Peter Brown

Stansted Tennis Club



Hospital Cup Finals

The finals were held at Stebbing Tennis Club on Saturday 22nd September. Several competitors from Stansted Tennis Club had taken part in the events, but alas, nobody made it to the finals. The winners were:

Men's Singles - Elsenham; Ladies' Singles - The Grove (Saffron Walden); Men's Doubles - Elsenham; Ladies Doubles - Thaxted; Mixed Doubles - Elsenham

A cheque for £1000 was presented to Avocet Ward, Saffron Walden Hospital.

Dates for your diary

Pearce Adult Doubles Tournament

Sunday 4th November - 9.30am for 10.00am start. Please sign up on the notice in the Clubhouse.

Coaching

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching at Stansted Tennis Club, please contact either Chris Hollis or Martyn Taplin 816386 (Monday night adults).

Used tennis balls

£1 per tube of four from Jan Hollis, telephone 812073.

Club Playing Sessions

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

Contacts

Felicity Shakespeare (Secretary) 831771, Daphne Lunnon (Chairman) 817574, Antony Dynamou (Membership Secretary) 813121. Website: www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk.

Chris Hollis
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 15th November in St John's Church Hall. Doors open at 1.30 for 2.00pm start. Meryl Tyers will be giving a talk on the well-known food expert Elizabeth David 1913-1992. **Please remember that there is no meeting in December.**

The big event of the year for our U3A Singers was our Concert '2012 – A Year of Celebration' held at St John's Church on Saturday 6th October. This was their third year of singing and Isabel Bradshaw, musical director, Marion Dyer, pianist, and the Stansted U3A Singers performed to a packed audience. There was a special performance of classical music from Stansted's well-known Sonia Levy and poetry from members of the U3A Poetry for Pleasure Group. There was also a performance by Megan Warwick. After the Concert there were refreshments and a glass of wine (if you weren't driving) in the Hall.



Photo: Maria White

Outings and Activities

A trip to Dover Castle on a bright October morning proved a good omen and the group had a private tour of Operation Dynamo and a trip around the Castle. Lunch was in Dover and then it was on to a visit at Sandwich finishing with a cream tea in one of the many tea shops.

The next event is our '60s /70s Disco in St John's Church Hall on Saturday 10th November at 7.30pm with a fish and chip supper. Tickets are £12, available from Maggie 503848 or Jan 812481. Members may bring friends.

We will be having our U3A Christmas Lunch at Great Hadham Golf Club on Friday 14th December and as numbers are limited, members are advised to book early.

If you have recently moved to Stansted or retired, why not join the U3A and meet new people and join in a new activity. For further information please contact Chris (817587) or Sandra (814304).

Chris Loveday



Stansted Evening Women's Institute

Liz Jordan welcomed us all to the meeting in September as President for the evening on behalf of the Members' Day Committee, with Chris Hope acting as her secretary. I hope they enjoyed the experience as much as I and the rest of the Committee enjoyed sitting back and letting it all happen! They arranged a really good evening and had encouraged members to wear flower-decorated hats to add to the theme for the evening. They provided not one speaker but three, to come and give us a flower arranging demonstration. Judy, Lorraine and Sue from Little Hallingbury Flower Club enthralled us with their expertise, and it really was expertise, having been silver gilt medallists at Chelsea Flower Show this year, with an arrangement called '60 glorious years', which I gather took them from 9.00pm until 6.00am to arrange!

Judy began with a continental style arrangement, which is long and narrow and front facing, making it very useful for church windows. A vertical placement is arranged at each end, she used twisted hazel and fennel, leaves, red carnations and pink and white roses, it looked magnificent. Sue, who is a National Flower Association prize winner this year, did what she called a typical Constance Spry arrangement radiating from the centre with carnations, yellow roses and a large centre lily. Her tips were to cut stems when you buy flowers, give them a long drink and remove leaves at the bottom. Using the sachets, powder or liquid which they come with, helps to stop bacteria growing in the water and prolongs their life. To remove pollen from clothes use sellotape don't rub it. The last, done by Lorraine, was an enormous hand-tied arrangement, which she skilfully put together whilst talking all the time. She used carnations and roses in apricot, gold and dark green foliage and Linda Gurr was the lucky winner of this when they were raffled at the end of the evening. I'm not sure how the person who won the continental arrangement got it home!

The Committee served us a wonderful assortment of cup cakes on cake stands, and positively encouraged us to have more than one each, which wasn't very difficult. The evening finished with a flower quiz; quizzes are usually done with much cheating and laughter and enjoyed by all.

In November we are having a talk by Catherine Aiken on the history and uses of aloe vera. Anyone is welcome to come along at 7.45pm on Thursday 15th November in St John's Church Hall.



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ST CLARE HOSPICE

Walkers brave the rain for StarlightWalk

Charity-minded walkers who braved the rain to support St Clare Hospice's Starlight Walk in Bishop's Stortford raised £10,000 for the charity. The fundraisers - with many taking part with painted faces and wearing fancy dress - completed a five-mile route through the town, starting and finishing at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club in Hadham Road.



Some 150 walkers took part in this, the second Starlight Walk, and the money raised was enough to pay for the Hospice's in-patient unit for two days. It was great to see such a crowd despite the rain. Big thanks go to all our supporters and volunteers who made the evening such good fun. The walk was sponsored by Mullucks Wells, estate agents, who were out on the night with their own team. The first walkers finished in 80 minutes - team Mary's Quartet: Andy Hudson, Luke Hudson, Simon Hudson and Chris Gent. All walkers received a medal. The highest fundraiser will receive prizes courtesy of Dreamdays.co.uk and Millers Hair Design. Before the walkers set off there was a fun Zumba warm-up session which everyone got involved in, including the Hospice's mascot, Clare the Bear. CB Sound Video Light kindly supplied the Start/Finish arch plus all sound and light free of charge. The walkers were set on their way by Bishop's Stortford Deputy Mayor, Councillor Janice Elliott.

The Clavering Jumble Sale raised almost £1,000, and the **King's Arms** kindly donated the proceeds from their raffles at recent quiz evenings, which raised a total of £100.

Camilla Whitby
Community Fundraiser
Tel: 773754

New Community Fundraiser For Stansted

Hi there! My name is Sarah Calder and I am the new St Clare Hospice Community Fundraiser for the Uttlesford area. I am really excited about my new role and I'm looking forward to raising much-needed funds for Stansted's local Hospice with some new and exciting events and ideas which I hope you will support and get involved with! At St Clare Hospice we care for people from the local community; people diagnosed with terminal illnesses such as cancer, end stage neurological, cardiac, renal or lung disease. The In-Patient and Day Therapy staff will care for 500 patients each year and make more than 1000 home visits. The services that the Hospice provides are free but cost nearly £2.8 million every year. The NHS only pays around 30% of this huge sum and we look to the community to raise the rest. We are proud that 83p in every £1 donated is spent directly on patient care. As I live in

Stansted, I will be trying out many of my ideas here so please keep an eye out in future issues of 'The Link' and on local noticeboards for events and activities! If you have any fundraising ideas for St Clare Hospice and would like some support in getting them off the ground, do get in touch and I will do whatever I can to help. I am also very happy to come and speak to groups about the work that the Hospice does.



Sarah Calder
Tel: 812988 Mob: 07528 52001
Email: familycalder@msn.com

LINK ADVERTISING

This is the start of our new printing year and we welcome our new advertisers. The full index is on page 40.

We have one small colour and a few black and white advertisements remaining.

Please visit www.stanstedlink.org.uk for a price list and booking form or if you do not have internet access call Marion on 814059

We look forward to hearing from you!



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mr Tim Turner of Sworders was the speaker at our recent meeting and very entertaining he was too. His subject - 'Miniature furniture or when is an apprentice piece not an apprentice piece?' The answer to this intriguing question being when it is a traveller's or cabinet maker's sample. Mr Turner explained that as there were no pattern books for everyday furniture, the travelling salesman would need to take miniature items of the furniture to show prospective customers and cabinet makers with small shop windows would need small samples of their work to show off to potential customers. Mr Turner brought a fascinating selection of miniature furniture from his own collection to show us including a bureau, settee a napkin press and a copy of a Windsor chair. Mention of Windsor brings us nicely to Windsor Castle and the ultimate in the world of miniature furniture and indeed all things Lilliputian - Queen Mary's doll's house. We were told that this had been created for the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley opened in 1924 and that the greatest British craftsmen and women produced items to fill the magnificent house and make it in the treasure trove that is still enjoyed by thousands today.

A very entertaining meeting was brought to a close with the presentation of a birthday cake and flowers to Cath Parsons, a member who was celebrating a very special birthday. So ended another lovely afternoon for our members. Other treats on the horizon include a tribute to the immortal Edith Piaf in November and festive music in December. If this sounds like your cup of tea come along and join us - you would be very welcome. We meet in Ugley Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED



Songs from St Teresa's Dave and Sophie



A sketch from the Quakers

It was another sell-out, raising £200 towards transportation costs for the Shoe Boxes



A love duet from St John's

There was the usual feast of entertainment from all our churches and friends



'Who wants to be a Heavenly Millionaire?' from the Free Church



The Gneiting Family & Lillian entertained us with folk music

Photographs by Maria White, Tony Butcher & Alan Wheeler

HARVEST SUPPER 2012

St John's choir entertained us with a psalm about village life. Abridged version:



This year has seen many exciting 'developments in the village: with many sets of traffic lights and road closures causing 'chaos. But hopefully it will have been 'worth it: as Church Road has now been 'calmed' with 'many' islands! The speed of traffic though remains a problem: but given the enthusiasm of the local speedwatch volunteers, this may soon be a thing of the past

St Mary's school is on the move: to a more 'spacious and 'purpose built 'location at Forest Hall Park. Can we be very naughty and suggest the old school as the 'site for 'the 'Health Centre: as it is bang in the centre of the village, and has loads of 'space 'for free 'parking. It is very sad that they have closed 'our 'Police 'Station: the end of an 'era 'in' the' village They could have 'done 'so 'quietly: but trying to blow it 'up' is 'maybe going a step too far

And what of our other Churches 'in 'the 'village?: We hear that the Free Church 'are 'opening a 'coffee bar, at the Place on the Hill The Quakers are having a 'bring '& 'share: whilst the 'Catholics' are 'planting a' rose garden And now we come to St John's: where we have 'recently 'been 'moving 'the 'furniture, Having spent many months without a 'Director 'of 'Music: our recent appointee has moved the 'Choir 'to a more 'central 'point. Whilst this may well 'improve 'the 'music: it stops the polo mints 'passing al'ong the 'back two' rows It also ensures that the basses 'stay' a'wake: the better to enjoy 'the 'Rector's 'sermons!

Stuart Ayres and Alan Corbishley

FORTHCOMING CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED EVENTS

Shoe Boxes

We will be packing on Monday 5th November from 7.00pm in the Free Church Hall. Please bring along contributions for the boxes or let one of us have them in advance. There is also a collection morning in the foyer of the Free Church on Saturday 27th October from 10.00am - 12 noon.

It would help greatly if shoe boxes are already covered with Christmas paper. So far we have £200 towards the cost of shipping boxes, which is the proceeds of the Harvest supper and donations. Thank you to all who have already contributed. We look forward to seeing helpers on the 5th.

Catherine Dean 813579
Helen Baker 814865
Eileen Quinn 812109

Celebration of Christmas 22nd December

Let us celebrate Christmas and everything it means to us! Let us ring out the old familiar carols and gather with our families surrounded by the church walls, garlanded with holly and glowing amid the light of scores of candles. It has long been a tradition for Stansted villagers, whatever their belief, to gather on the weekend before Christmas to welcome in the wonderful season of Christmas. At the end of this very full year of national celebration please join us once again in St John's on Saturday 22nd December at 3.00pm. After we have sung the familiar carols, sighed with pleasure at the children's glowing faces and joyful singing and listened to poem and scripture we will seal the afternoon's festivities with mulled wine and shortbread. To make the occasion even more special why not augment the choir that we form especially for this occasion? Last year saw it 40 strong and it would be really wonderful if we could make it to 50. You only need to commit to two short rehearsals which will be 7.15 – 8.00pm on Thursdays 13th and 20th December. Even if you have never sung in a choir before you will be made very welcome. Come on and celebrate!

Alan Wheeler 813745

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MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Coffee Mornings

A very big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning at Old Lane House on 28th September.



Photo: Maria White

A marvellous total of £360.00 was raised for Macmillan and a lovely morning was enjoyed by all.

Christine and Bill Stiles

We held a Macmillan Coffee Morning on 4th October between 9.00- 11.00am and raised £101.70. Many thanks to everybody who came along and donated, and for your kind support and comments. It is very much appreciated by both of us.

Paul and Samantha Salmon
Landlord and Landlady
The Cock

This winter why not organise an event for Macmillan Cancer Support? For more information please contact me.

Laura Bazzoni
Hertfordshire & Essex Fundraising Manager
Tel: 07793 579363
Email: lbazzoni@macmillan.org.uk

CHILDREN'S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Autumn Mushrooms Serves 4

Ingredients

6 large field mushrooms
5 tbsp olive oil
250g tub ricotta cheese
2 tbsp green pesto (or basil puree)
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
25g fresh parmesan, grated

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C.
Arrange mushrooms (top down) in an ovenproof dish.
Mix ricotta, pesto, garlic, and parsley together, and then spoon into the mushrooms.
Sprinkle over the parmesan. Drizzle with olive oil.
Bake for about 20 minutes or until the mushrooms are soft all the way through and the cheese is just starting to turn golden.

For details of cookery classes and parties for 2-11 year olds contact Jane Chate, Kiddy Cook 07796 270068, Stansted@kiddycook.co.uk www.kiddycook.co.uk

STANSTED FAMILY CAFE

Food for Thought continues this month with two more topics:

Tuesday 6th November at 7.45pm '**Ancient Myth or Present Reality?**'

How can it be that some people claim to dismiss God's very existence, but others claim to experience Him in their daily lives?

Tuesday 20th November at 7.45pm '**If God is said to be good why do bad things happen?**'

Some people claim that bad things which happen in the world suggest God isn't there or doesn't care - but is it realistic to hold God responsible for them, or are there other explanations? Where DOES evil come from? And why are some people still convinced that God is good?

Food for Thought is a short series of discussions on some of the big questions of 'Life, the universe and everything'. Enjoy a light meal and a chance to air and share your views, as well as listen to others. Everyone is welcome - the wider the variety of views which are represented, the livelier the debate! Some people see that the events are sponsored by Stansted Family Church and presume we have some sort of agenda. Absolutely! Our agenda is to encourage people to think about the bigger things in life and to come to their own conclusions, to think about the alternatives and to work out what they actually believe for themselves, not to just rely on others' opinions. How many of us blindly accept things presented in the media without questioning them, or the motives behind them? Typically in our teens and early 20s we start thinking about the 'big questions' of life, but somehow as time goes on we get caught up in the day-to-day responsibilities of work, friends and family and we forget to consider those deeper questions, or just begin to accept what we hear without questioning. This is your opportunity to think about things you don't normally think about! To join our frank and friendly discussions, email stanstedf4t@yahoo.co.uk to book your free place (to help with catering) and to receive details of this month's venues.

Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Stansted Family Church



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

Presentation Night is Saturday 10th November 7.00pm for 7.30pm. We are busy distributing menus for this event, so please telephone below if you have not received one yet. Our AGM is on Friday 23rd November at 7.45pm - nomination sheet for officers etc is displayed on the notice board. Watch this space for an update on carpet bowls; as this goes to print we may have already started to play, so please telephone below for confirmation on dates and times.

Doreen Scraggs
Hon Secretary
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Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net

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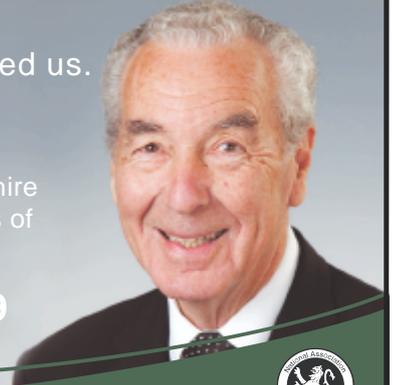
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS ELMS FARM, CHURCH ROAD

SAT 3rd NOVEMBER

GATES OPEN 6.30 pm

BONFIRE 7 pm ~ FIREWORKS 7.30pm

FAMILY TICKET ONLY £10

(2 adults and 2 children)

Additional tickets £4 adults, £2 children

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

SUCCESS IN WINNING FUNDS FROM JUBILEE GRANTS

The allocation of the Jubilee Grant Fund has been announced by Uttlesford District Council. The Parish Council made three applications to this fund and all received the full amount requested.

The three successful applications were:

- Contribution towards new equipment for Bentfield Play Area £10,000
- Six seats to commemorate the Jubilee £4950
- Two mechanical litter picking machines £2990

Additional funds are being sought to enable the complete redesign of Bentfield Play Area with new equipment to go ahead at an estimate cost of £41,000.

FORMAL OPENING OF THE NEW PLAY AREAS - 27th OCTOBER

Sir Alan Haselhurst MP has agreed to open the new play areas on Saturday, 27 October at the following times:

Mountfitchet Green - 10am

Recreation Ground - 10.30am

Afterwards Sir Alan will present the winners of the Stansted in Bloom competition with their certificates.

The Parish Council is grateful to Sir Alan for undertaking this role and is sure that this will start a period of happy and constructive play for many of our youngsters.

PART FUNDING FOR ONE PCSO HAS BEEN STOPPED

In January 2012 PCSO Kelly Roberts left to train to become a police constable and in this ambition we wish her the best of good fortune and thank her for the valuable work she undertook in this parish. Some years ago the Parish Council took the decision to fund 50% of the employment costs of a PCSO in order to secure the services of a second PCSO in this parish. This payment was conditional on no change being made in the number of police officers serving the parish.

With the failure to replace Kelly Roberts and with no indication that this position is likely to change, the Parish Council has withdrawn its funding. If the Police reverse this position, then the Parish Council will review funding.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE CAR BOOT SALE

9 am Sunday 9th December
£10 Per Boot

Limited Space - Book Soon
Call 01279 813214

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We hope you will all come along to our first ever Christmas Fayre to be held in the Lower Street car park from Friday 7 - Sunday 9 December.

Some plans are still to be finalised, and a complete programme of events will be published in next month's Link. However, to give you a taste of what's in store

FRIDAY

- 5pm switch on Christmas tree lights in Lower Street car park.
- 5.30 and 7.00pm - Potty Patrick's Family Christmas Show in the marquee.
- Synthetic ice rink, children's rides, festive refreshments all available.

SATURDAY

- 9am - 4pm Craft Market in the marquee
- Synthetic ice rink open all day, children's rides open all day.
- Steam engine and organ
- Santa's Grotto - with reindeer and photographer available
- 8.30pm - Live Band and Licensed Bar in the marquee.

SUNDAY

- 9am-4pm Craft Market in the marquee
- 9am onwards - Boot Sale in the car park
- Synthetic ice rink, children's rides open
- Steam engine and organ.
- 6pm - Choirs and Carol Singing in the marquee (U3A and Charis Centre choirs)

The Family Christmas Show, Live Band and Carol Concert are all ticket-only events. Tickets should be on sale from the Council Offices and other village locations during November.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

On Thursday 18th October at Saffron Walden, two parishioners were presented with well-earned Community Achievement Awards.

- **Daphne Wallis Jarvis** is currently the Secretary of Birchanger Wood Trust and has played a large part in reviving activity to care for and restore the wood. Apart from administrative and legal work, she has been the driving force in securing funds of around £100,000 to create proper walkways around and through the wood. Long may her efforts continue and be rewarded.
- **Sonia Levy** was the original inspiration behind the Village Music Club which is now in its seventeenth year and has put Stansted on the concert circuit for national and international musicians. Without her music@stansted would not have become such an outstanding success while her support for St John's & Churches Together makes her a worthy recipient.

DEVELOPMENT PRESSURES FROM ALL SIDES

Whichever direction you look there are proposals for substantial housing development which, if carried through unchecked or without inadequate infrastructure investment, then not only would this parish be much changed but our quality of life would deteriorate.

The following proposals within the parish boundaries may result in planning applications (apart from any proposals published in the draft Local Development Framework).

- Land adjacent to Pines Hill - 54 dwellings
- Land at Elms Farm - 60 dwellings
- Land north of Bentfield Green - 100+ dwellings

Beyond the parish boundaries the threats are even more substantial:

- **Elsenham** - The Fairfield Partnership is to make an initial application to build 800 houses but the longer term ambition is 3000 dwellings (more or less the equivalent of this parish including Foresthall Park once built out)
- **Bishop's Stortford** - Proposals to build 3000 dwellings on the Areas of Special Restraint would push the boundaries of the town into Uttlesford District and well towards this parish.

The potential pressures on the local infrastructure (already struggling) and the change in this rural area will require rigorous opposition once any firm proposals materialise.

HEALTH CENTRE - PLANNING APPLICATION

By the time The Link is delivered the decision on the revised plan for the development in Lower Street (incorporating the Health Centre) should have been determined by the Planning Committee of Uttlesford District Council. The Parish Council at its meeting on 3 October supported the revised application subject to the following conditions:

- That the applicant be required to enter into a legal agreement to ensure provision of adequate car parking.
- Land to be safeguarded to permit future widening of Church Road
- Time restrictions on delivery vehicles, also on hours of construction, parking of construction workers' vehicles and street cleansing
- Highways works, where possible, to include environmental improvements to the street scene

To clarify the issues surrounding the adequacy of the car parking arrangements, the Council commissioned a professional report to assess these issues.

CONCERNED ABOUT AIRCRAFT NOISE?

A certain amount of aircraft noise is unavoidable if you live close to an airport but that does not mean you have to put up with any amount of aircraft noise at any time. This can happen when an aircraft is flying low, is off-track, or is simply generating unusually loud engine noise. It is vital that, if you are annoyed by aircraft noise, you register this as soon as possible after the event.

Registering a 'noise aircraft' event ensures that the airport has the information and can take appropriate action. It also enables patterns to be identified so that longer term solutions can be considered. Finally, it also serves as a useful reminder to the airport, the airlines and the Department for Transport that those of us who live around airports are not immune to the effects of noise aircraft - including helicopters as well as planes.

The best way to register a noise aircraft event to the Stansted Airport noise complaints unit is via the SSE website at www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise-complaint-form.asp. This ensures that SSE can keep track of complaints and follow up with the airport management as appropriate. If you don't have internet access you can register a noisy aircraft event with the airport by phone on 0800 243788. For further information see

www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/noise.html

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We hope that as many people as possible will join us for the annual parade and wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial on Sunday 11 November. We will depart the Crafton Green car park at around 10.40am.

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

The profession of Social Work is much-maligned by all and in many ways Social Workers are criticised for whatever they do. However, we should not under-estimate how difficult and demanding their job is when having to deal with people who need support to overcome a multitude of problems.

Essex County Council have over the years, in common with other authorities, had great difficulty in recruiting and retaining Social Workers but more recently we have managed to ensure that the core of the workforce is permanently employed and committed to providing the service to Essex residents. To enhance this we have now opened an Essex Social Work Academy and the intention of this is to ensure not only that Social Workers have the right qualifications to carry out their work effectively but that they can undergo a process of Continuing Professional Development to ensure that they are up to date with all of the latest issues affecting their profession.

Essex needs Social Workers to help those vulnerable people we have within the County and by setting up this Academy we trust we are supporting our employees to provide the best possible service.

On another matter, people often ask and have the right to know what we are spending their money on. They sometimes issue Freedom of Information requests and they often cost us, or you, hundreds of pounds to answer and so to give people full sight of the details we have set up a website where they can see exactly what we spend. The website now lists any expenditure over 1p and except for names of employees or foster carers everything is available. You can visit the site on www.essex.gov.uk/your-council/council-spending/pages if you want to check this out although I should warn you that, as we make more than half a million payments each year, there may be a lot to trawl through.

(Cty.Cllr Ray Gooding)

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

The revised planning application for a health centre with shops and apartments on Hilton Cars' site in Lower Street may have been decided by mid-October, after I wrote this article. Concern remained about the ability of the Lower Street car

park to accommodate existing demand for shops, local businesses and the castle as well as the demand expected from the development of a supermarket, residential apartments and the health centre. The District Council had told me that the car park was an incident matter and not part of the planning application when I asked them to assess it thoroughly. I was relieved when the Parish Council appointed a professional surveyor to produce a report on the viability of what is proposed.

The District Council has come up with a draft proposal to designate the land behind the east side of Cambridge Road as a Development Opportunity Site. This is a significant step forward in the planning process. It means that, if the landowners from the former London & Stansted Furnishing site through to Crafton Green, (including the Parish Council), can reach agreement in future, we could see that area redeveloped for local services and businesses. One hurdle still to overcome is rescinding the current proposal to change part of this land into a housing enclave.

(Cllr Alan Dean)

DO YOU LIVE NEAR OR ON THE MOUNTFITCHET ESTATE?

Would you like your voice to be heard in the community? Are you interested in making sure that your opinions count? Is there anything specific that you would like to talk to us about? If so then we can work together to keep you up-to-date on progress. We are looking to get together in November and we would like to hear from you.

Please contact us and give us your thoughts.

Cllr Iris Evans - 01279 815848 or email on cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk or any member of the Parish Council.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

14 November - Full Council

21 November - Open Spaces

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Neighbourhood Watch

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Bridget Gott	814440
John Hudson	814489 john@hudson8889.fsnet.co.uk
Peter Jones	813252 peter@lowerstreet.com
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John Savopoulos	817687 johnsav8@gmail.com
Geoffrey Sell (Chairman)	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk
Valerie Trundle	813433 prtvt@btinternet.com

Uttlesford District Council Members

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

Essex County Council Member

Ray Gooding	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essexcc.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

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

Police - PC Tom Bastendorff Tel: 01279 812211

Non-emergency No. 101
PCSO (Stuart Stranger) Tel: 07989 174801

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Contact: Kathy West Tel: 816293 Email: kewest@btinternet.com
Beavers Age 6-8	David South Tel: 814371	Pilots (age 5-18)	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Hon Secretary Tel: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 07968 347176 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Brownies/Guides	Glynis Prothero District Administrator Tel: 814145	Rainbows	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
CAB	Tel: 08444 775986	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yp.latham@tiscali.co.uk
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Royal British Legion	John Segar Tel: 813289
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Roger Musgrove Tel: 816172	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Explorer Scouts	Fintan Lambe Tel: 817937	Spangles Children's Centre	Tel: 812348
Friends of St Mary's Church	Audrey Rodgers Tel: 812162	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Grove Cottage	David Scott Tel: 656085	Tennis Club	Daphne Lunnon Tel: 817574 Email: drlunnon@gmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Thornbury Badminton Club	Marion or Shirley Tel: 869896 or 815871
History Society	Peter Brown Chairman Tel: 812816	U3A	Christine Chair Tel: 817587
Huw Johnson Club	Marion and Tom Johnson Tel: 812284	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Judy Colliver President Tel: 812470
Inner Wheel Club	Lynn Rutt, President Tel: 654537	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace President Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Derek Honour Tel: 647213	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 01371 873156/ 07920 466 923
Mountfitchet Club	John Robinson Tel: 812755		
Music Club	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: info@musicatstansted.com		
NCT	anna@nct.org.uk Tel: 812257		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

Message _____

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REMEMBER, REMEMBER

'Remember remember the fifth of November'
How could we forget?
Fireworks are heard days
before, frightening the feathered and furred



Remember remember the Guys of the past
Old pennies begged
for ragbag dummies
Spent at the sweetshop filling young tummies

Remember remember bonfires of yore
Icy fingers and toes
Sparklers like stars
Soaring rockets launched from mum's jam jars

Remember remember when lighting that taper
Accidents happen
Please be aware
Fireworks can be dangerous so do take care

Remember remember the fifth of November
Is it time we forgot?
Or used our head
And went for virtual fireworks instead

Remember remember the eleventh of November
We must never forget
Those who die
Fighting for their Country - for you and I



Remember remember the eleventh of November
Please don't forget
Show your respect
At the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of
November

Loki

Autumn is now well and truly upon us and with Halloween, the smell of fireworks and the clocks going back, we all know that Christmas is just around the corner. Once more the NCT will be holding our ever popular Christmas Make and Do, which gives pre-schoolers the opportunities to hand make Christmas presents for friends and families, individually crafting a range of gifts from place mats and calendars through to mouse mats, coasters and chopping boards. All items are individually priced but will start from as little as £1.50 each. Crazy Ceramics will also be there creating memories; your child's hand or foot prints on ceramic mugs, plates etc. There will also be a range of decorations for the Christmas tree that children can hand paint. Please remember all our events are for members and non-members, so join us for some crafting fun, tea, cake and Christmas shopping all rolled into one and make this event a bigger success than last year.

Have you liked our Facebook page? All our events are updated on this site for our members with information about local events or classes relevant for mums to be, babies and pre-schoolers. Our coffee mornings are an informal gathering held in a member's house, so if you fancy a friendly chat and some new playmates why not pop along to one of our coffee mornings. We would love to meet you and it is a great way of making new friends. Monday mornings are for toddlers from walking till three years, Wednesday afternoons our pre-schoolers meet from three years upwards and Friday mornings are for pregnant bumps and babies up to walking age. Contact me for details of our weekly events.

Other activities being held this month

For all ages - Christmas Make & Do Friday 9th November at St John's Church Hall from 10.00am-11.30am
For all parents and carers - Social Branch Meeting Thursday 15th November from 8.00pm, call me for details
For all ages - Tumbledowns soft play Saffron Walden Thursday 22nd November from 3.00pm
For all ages - Coconuts soft play Great Dunmow Monday 26th November 10.00am-11.30am

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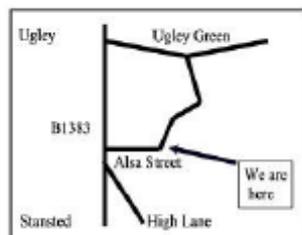
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Kathy West
Secretary
Tel: 816293

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DOWN OUR LANE

BREWERY LANE

Brewery Lane, as the name suggests, is a tree-lined lane with grass verges and no pavement. It is in the middle of the village joining St John's Road at the top, which ultimately leads to the Cambridge Road, and High Lane at the bottom. The land that Brewery Lane is built on was once called Alley Fields and from copies of wills in our deeds, belonged to the Maitland family. The road has some old horse chestnut trees, which are unfortunately suffering from a disease causing one to be felled. In spring, when in bloom, they look magnificent, and when viewed from the top of the road all sign of habitation is hidden. Brewery Lane looks like a woodland path in the middle of a forest!

We bought our house in 1965 taking possession of the keys in December of that year, got married in April 1966 and have

been here ever since.

When we first came to this road it was unmade and contained just a few houses.

There was the semi-detached house at the top (the other half of that semi being in St John's Road), our three semis, one bungalow and another bungalow, I think, at the end of the spur off the lane. More or less opposite us on the left hand side stood a detached bay fronted Victorian house in which lived the Miss Smiths,



who raced greyhounds. They moved to sheltered accommodation and the house stood empty for a while. It had orchards at the back and the apples were very nice! The house and land were sold and three detached houses were erected which are still there today.

The land on the north side looking towards High Lane had the stables to Mont House (now demolished) situated on it. When building work started on the detached houses at the bottom of the road, all the wood from the stables was consigned to a skip. (The brackets for holding various items of horse's tack were still attached to the wood.) My husband can't stand to see good material go to waste and asked if he could have some. He built our shed out of it, putting in a window bought from Peasley's builder's yard for one shilling! It still stands to this day, well weathered with moss on the roof and winter jasmine climbing across.

At the moment five new luxury houses are being built on the Mont House land and our lane has become a parking lot for builder's vehicles causing traffic problems. We residents

can't wait to get our lovely, quiet 'woodland path' road back!

Kath Johnson

AN ODE TO BREWERY LANE

Brewery Lane will it ever be the same again?

The lane of vista, trees and green,
with flowers waving in the scene.

The summer when work is done
find villagers walking and children playing
late in the evening sun.

As residents we are full of woe

Unlike birds we have nowhere else to go.

The lane is broken beyond repair

Who pays for vandals who don't care?

We've asked for help but no-one's there

Where are the politicians who care?



Crelin Collins

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

With a quarter of the league season already gone, both our First and Reserve teams are now looking at the need to have a good quality depth of playing squad to overcome injuries and player suspensions. Our team managers are constantly on the look-out to inject additional players as we have recently found that a consistency of results cannot be achieved whilst we have to change selection of sides on a weekly basis. Winning matches also lifts the confidence of the players and although those have yet to happen in the league, as a 'new team' assembled in the summer being able to compete against the established teams is proven evidence that our project to rebuild Stansted Football Club will come through, for as the saying goes 'Rome wasn't built in a day'. The players, many of whom are local to our area, appreciate the support they are receiving and this has been borne by the tremendous success we have seen in the individual player sponsorship whereby family, friends and local businesses have donated cash in order for the players to be kitted out in pre and after match club attire which brings a kind of 'professionalism' to our club when we arrive for games.

Football is a game to be enjoyed by all, young or old, which is why the club is pleased to entertain the 'Stansted Veterans FC' by allowing them to use the facilities of the pitch, changing rooms and club house when arranging games against other local veteran teams from our area. Organised by Stansted resident Gary Cook, the team is a mixture of players whose ages range from mid 30s upwards. Allied to this group we have also had a request to allow the 'Super Veterans' to organise a game at Hargrave Park in the coming weeks, their criteria being a player must be over 50. Finally, please see below the upcoming fixtures at Hargrave Park; if you have a spare afternoon and wish to support your local club we would be more than happy to welcome you.

Sat 10th November Firsts v Barking

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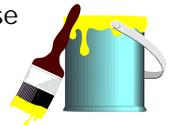
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Our second concert this season will be on Sunday 2nd December at 3.00pm in our usual venue, St John's church. The concert will feature the British classical guitarist and composer, Gary Ryan, making a welcome return visit to Stansted. Gary, one of the world's leading classical guitarists, has been captivating audiences with his exceptional virtuosity and creative genius for over a decade, winning universal critical acclaim for his formidable blend of flawless technique and profound musical artistry. His highly varied concert programme will include items by Bach, Praetorius and John Dowland as well as the popular Verano Portena by Astor Piazzolla. Gary will also be playing several of his own compositions and also Preludes 1, 3 and 4 from the well known guitar repertoire of Heitor Villa-Lobos. Tickets, adults £12, children £1, available from Stansted Carpets; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford; Sonia Levy tel 815282; or at the door on the day.



Future concerts this season are on Sunday 27th January at 3.00pm - Chenyin Li (piano) and on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm - Kimon Parry (clarinet) and Antony Ingham (piano).

If you would like further information about us, please visit our website – www.musicatstansted.com.

Alan Corbishley
Tel: 816318



SAFFRON WALDEN CHORAL SOCIETY

The Armed Man/Chichester Psalms

Saffron Walden Choral Society begins an exciting season with a concert of modern classics at 7.30pm on Saturday 10th November in St Mary's Church Saffron Walden. Anyone who listens to Classic FM will be familiar with Karl Jenkins Mass for Peace: *The Armed Man*. SWCS will perform this alongside *The Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein, who is perhaps better-known for composing 'West Side Story', and also 'Jubilate Jubilee', a short piece by Paul Mealor (the composer of Military Wives' *Wherever you are*). Soloists Cathy Bell (mezzo) and Alasdair Austin (treble) and Chameleon Arts Chamber Ensemble will join the choir. As part of the moving Jenkins work, which portrays the horror of war, a muezzin from Chelmsford will perform the Call to Prayer. The Bernstein is a wonderfully uplifting setting of psalms in Hebrew, at times full of rhythmic vitality and energy and at times utterly serene.

The season will also include the traditional Spirit of Christmas concerts on 8th December. In 2013 there is a singing day on 2nd February, which is open to all singers.

The spring concert on 16th March will be Haydn's *St Cecilia Mass* and Vivaldi's *Magnificat in G minor*. To round off the season the Choral Society will be singing Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at Thaxted Festival on 14th July.

Tickets for the concert on 10th November are £15 (£12 concessions), available from SWCS Box Office Tel: 01799 531127 or email: tickets@swchoral.org.uk; Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre; www.wegotickets.com and from SWCS members. The society's brochure is also available from the Tourist Information Centre, and details of events are on the website www.swchoral.co.uk.

Liz Jennings
Press Officer
Tel: 07720 567922
Email: elizabeth_jennings@o2.co.uk



MOUNTFITCHET GARDEN CLUB

www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

October's Meeting

"A shady, north-facing garden behind a Victorian house in Cambridge where no flowers grew" was how our guest speaker explained her introduction into the 'Secret Life of Ferns'. All her hopes of growing bright spring primulas and summer flowers were dashed as there was not enough sun, but ferns thrived. Her interest grew and she became a member of the British Pteridological Society. Using a series of slides, Margaret Nimmo-Smith explained that ferns can be found all over the world, in many different habitats – dry shade, semi-shade, full-shade, wet conditions, lime rich conditions.- and grow in all shapes and sizes. Ferns grew over 300 million years ago (before the dinosaurs!). Until recent times their life cycle was a mystery - they do not produce flowers so how do they reproduce? It was 19th century botanists with microscopes who finally unravelled the mystery. A few ferns produce runners, but the majority produce 'spores' on the underside of their fronds (leaves). These spores look like spots – they start light but go brown as they age. Using fresh spores increases the chance of successful germination. New plants do not grow directly from the spores – the spores grow into a 'moss-like' green heart-shaped prothallus which has male and female organs underneath. Moisture is needed for fertilisation and then new fern plants grow directly from the prothallus. Members were then shown how to collect spores and how to sow them. In the true Blue Peter style of "here is one I prepared earlier" – members were then shown several pots – freshly sown, prothallus growing, new fern plant growing. Ferns are a good foil for many foliage plants and flowers

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 7th November - Mr Tom Cole will be talking about 'Growing Fruit and Vegetables'. Meetings are held at the Day Centre at the top of Chapel Hill. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome - day visitors £2.50 or membership is available.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144
Email: maralyn@mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

'GOLDEN' SKYWATCH

No 50

A monthly look at an aspect of the night sky



In recent Skywatches I have said we might have to wait some time before the machinery that is moving around on Mars will be able to send something exciting. But it has now, because we have found - wait for it - pebbles, nice smooth pebbles. But why and how is that of any importance? Because before rocks become pebbles they have spent hundreds of years being knocked about as shapeless pieces of rock in flowing water. It is the first real piece of evidence of a time when liquid water existed on Mars. But to have liquid water you have to have an atmosphere of a certain density. Here on Earth our atmosphere is sufficiently dense to keep water liquid by the weight of the air we depend on. In fact, every square inch of our bodies supports just over 14 pounds weight of air and that weight also rests on water and prevents individual molecules of water just floating away. It is the tides and all the constant movement of the oceans that grind the rough rocks to eventually become nice smooth pebbles, which leaves us with the conundrum of what happened to Mars' earlier atmosphere? It still has an atmosphere but it is very thin and mainly of carbon dioxide. The gravity of the red planet is about one third of the Earth which makes it difficult to see how pebbles could have had enough time to become smooth. It is interesting, too, that before the pebbles were found the great machine had sent back pictures of ground that suggested that there was an era where water freely flowed.

So what is the attraction of Mars? Probably because, when we can see it, it really has a noticeable red hue. But there are other reasons. Mars is a rather benign planet to go to: a thin atmosphere, mainly of carbon dioxide which, though not much use to us, is not corrosive, unlike Venus's atmosphere, which is very corrosive and extremely hot. Mercury is a barren and a very, very hot planet, being only 30 million miles from the Sun and most unwelcome. Pluto is far too far and the four giant gas planets are throwing out lethal radiation. So Mars is always going to be the next place that humans set feet on but there is still going to be a leisurely wait before we find Mars' secrets.

Martin West



EASTON LODGE PRESERVATION TRUST

Our beautiful 2013 calendars are now on sale at the bargain price of: A4 £5.00, A3 £7.50. Featuring stunning images of the gardens including the winning entry from our 2012 photography competition, these would make lovely Christmas presents. They are available from the gardens during Thursday volunteer sessions (by prior arrangement via email, enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk or telephone 01371 876979) or by post - visit the website www.eastonlodge.co.uk and download an order form or telephone us and we will send you one.

SRC Aggregates are generously donating around 40 tonnes of gravel which is being laid between the beds in the Italian Garden. A team of volunteers will spend a weekend laying membrane and then gravel to improve the look of the garden and help with weed control. The Trust is hugely grateful to SRC and the volunteers and if there are any other firms that might like to sponsor a flower bed, volunteer uniforms or other area in the garden in return for as much publicity as we can muster we would be keen to hear from them. The gardens are now closed until Snowdrop Sundays which are set for 17th and 24th February 2013. However, there will be gardening going on right through the year (weather permitting) and we always need new volunteers - not just for gardening - whatever the season - so why not email or telephone us if you are interested? Further information about all the 2013 openings is available on the website at or those of you so inclined can also follow the gardens on Facebook and Twitter @HelenGOEL.

Helen Carter
Trust Administrator
Tel: 07899 974107



HATFIELD FOREST SNIPPETS

After a busy couple of weeks we are managing to take time to stop and appreciate the changing seasons at Hatfield Forest. Autumn is definitely here, the leaves are starting to drop and colours are changing from green to gold. Our ever popular events programme has included a few extra unpublished ones including the Skyline and Horse and Carriage rides. The Skyline ride gave our visitors a chance to go up in a cherry picker and view the Forest from above the tree canopy and the horse and carriage rides took visitors back in time to the style of the Houblon family as they would have travelled with guests from Great Hallingbury Place.

The kiosk and main gate will remain open every day from 10.00am-5.00pm weekdays, 9.00am-5.00pm weekends until 4th November, after which it will then go to weekends only 10.00am-3.30pm. However, you will be able to park all year round in the main entrance car park as normal. The bike hire facility will also continue until 4th November and is currently operating Wednesday through to Sunday. Rowing boat hire will stop after 28th October and don't forget we have the Walking Festival throughout October half term where we will be leading a variety of different walks, for example Nordic, health, disabled and an Autumn Amble which will be a guided walk looking at Hatfield Forest through the changing seasons and some of the conservation work.

There are still tickets available for Batty Halloween on 31st October and Father Christmas Trails in early December, please book now to avoid disappointment at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfieldforest or by calling 0844 249 1895. Father Christmas will be at the Forest 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th December; come and join us on the trail and enjoy the crafts. We finish our season with a carol singsong in the Shell House on 15th December 2.30pm-3.30pm.

Now the temperature is starting to drop we are making log deliveries to the local areas. If you would like to order logs please call the office on 870678.

Hannah Morrice
Visitor Experience Team Leader



STANSTED SCOUT TROOP

Gold awards

Like buses, you wait for ages for a Gold Award, then two come along together. Well done to brothers Chris and Alex Lloyd for gaining their Chief Scout's Gold Award, the top award in the Scout section. To achieve this, they had to gain eight Challenge Awards over their three and a half years in Scouts. They both gained the Creative, Global, Outdoor, Promise, Fitness, Community, Adventure and Outdoor Plus awards. Many of these were achieved by taking part in numerous adventurous activities and many camps, at Troop, District and County level. They will soon be moving on to the Explorer Scouts to continue their Scouting.



Shooting competition

Our District shooting competition was this year held in Great Dunmow. As the holders, we took 10 Scouts over to defend the trophy. They shoot 10 rounds standing, 10 rounds prone (lying down) and 10 rounds kneeling. During the day when we weren't shooting we were able to hone our skills at archery. The scores were added up and once again we were the winners by a significant margin. Well done shooters.

Super Troop competition

October was time for our sports themed weekend where we take on other Scout troops from our District to see who is the 'Super Troop'. We attended this year's competition as the holders, and entered two teams. On the Saturday, five events were contested on a lovely sunny day, but quite a cold evening left a definite white look to the grass in the morning. Another sunny day soon warmed up the tents and the Scouts, ready to resume their battles. Three more events were then completed and I'm pleased to say we won the competition again for the fourth year running.



Backwoods weekend

This weekend is intended to give the Scouts an idea of how to cope in a survival situation. The only tool allowed is a penknife. Joining others from around our District, the first task was to construct a shelter to sleep in. Different designs were used, ranging from good to very good, especially the thatched one. Whatever you made, you were going to sleep in! It was the middle of September and the night temperature was not cold. The main Saturday meal was spit roast rabbit, which, of course needed skinning and gutting first, although there were chicken thighs for the squeamish ones. They were also taught about finding different types of wild fruit growing locally and how to spot dangerous plants. Sunday's meal was fish (after gutting) cooked in wet newspaper. An informative weekend with many skills being learnt. We are off to camp in Norfolk in November as the adventure continues.

Mike Byrne, Scout Leader
Robert Sadler, Assistant Scout Leader

St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School



Learning together we care, share and prepare

We have welcomed everyone back for a new school year, full of energy and enthusiasm for the term ahead. We now have two Foundation Stage classes with 43 new pupils, all of whom are well settled in and working well. We have also welcomed new pupils into other year groups as well as more staff ... St. Mary's is growing into the new building! The move across to the new site took place during the week of 22nd October. Our final assembly in the St John's Road building was led by the Rector. The PTFA organised a 'survivors' photograph of all current pupils and staff and we ended with the release of a cloud of balloons, coloured St Mary's blue, as a farewell. The school contact details, from Monday 5th November, are as follows:

St Mary's CE (Foundation) Primary School
Hampton Road
Foresthall Park
Stansted
CM24 8FE
Tel: 812212
Fax: 815958
Email: admin@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk
Website: www.stmarysschool-stansted.ik.org

St Mary's would like to say a big 'Thank You' to the Co-op in Stansted for their support (and delicious breakfast goodies) for Crunchy Munch Breakfast Club run by Mrs Helen Pawsey. The Co-op contributions and Helen's work for our pupils is much appreciated.

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. We will be having Open Mornings during November for parents applying for Reception places for 2013. Posters will be in the village and details will be with pre-schools early in November.

Christine Tonkins
Head Teacher

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I have arranged our next general meeting on Tuesday 27th November from 7.30pm-9.00pm at St Mary's School (Hampton Road) which will give me an opportunity to provide an update on a number of issues in and around Foresthall Park. Per our previous two meetings I also hope to have some representation from the local parish and district councillors. If you are new to Foresthall Park then please do join us – this is a perfect opportunity to meet some of your neighbours. I will put an agenda online nearer the time.

It is worth mentioning that our group has now been in existence for about a year and a half and I hope we are doing something useful, nudging things along where we can, acting as a good focus for Foresthall Park and representing the residents fairly. The Committee was originally formed of volunteers and I'm happy for us to continue in this vein provided that residents agree that this is appropriate for a group of our nature. If anyone would like to join the Committee and be a little more involved in what we are doing then please contact me or see me at the meeting. We can be a little flexible with numbers. It would be very good to get some representation from the north side of the development (Hampton Road side). I should also say that I am very grateful to the school for letting us use their hall for our meeting as they will have only been open a few weeks – the school opens on Monday 5th November (first day after half term). Hopefully that will not be an inauspicious date to open although I expect that the first few weeks might be a slightly testing time for many as we all get used to the inevitable increase in traffic around the development at the start and end of the school day. I know that the school is very keen to work with its new neighbours to minimise disruption.

And finally, Halloween is upon us again. I'm afraid that we simply ran out of time to organise the proposed Halloween walk but a few people did get in touch with some great ideas and perhaps we will be able to do something next year. If you do carve a pumpkin and put it outside, then you will get some 'trick or treaters' so make sure you've got some candy and sweets at the ready! And I'd love to put some photos of your efforts on our website so please send me photos of your carved pumpkins (the good, the bad and the ugly!) and/or Halloween outfits and I'll put up as many pictures as I can.

Stephen Berry (Chairman)
Tel: 647652
Email: s.berry@mac.com

MANUDEN SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Saturday 1st December in St Mary's Church, Manuden, at 7.30pm. We will be performing Benjamin Britten's 'Saint Nicholas', a cantata on the life of the 4th century saint, popularly known as Santa Claus, for chorus, orchestra and tenor solo. There will also be other seasonal music. We will be donating the proceeds to help restore our church organ. Tickets are £10/£5 (children), from 812157 or on the door.



Samuel Pepys Plague and Fire

The meeting on 4th October was well attended with a very interesting and animated talk by Colin Oakes on Samuel Pepys through the Great Plague and the Fire of London. Born in 1663 in Fleet Street, London, the fifth son to a tailor, Samuel Pepys, mostly remembered for his Diaries, had a very interesting and privileged life in London. Educated in Magdalene College, Cambridge, he became Chief Secretary to the Admiralty under both King Charles II and subsequently King James II, and is still today toasted and known within the modern Navy for being its saviour. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1665 and served as its President from 1st December 1684 to 30th November 1686. Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica* was published during this period and its title page bears Pepys' name. He became an MP for Castle Rising in Norfolk. In 1673 he was involved with the establishment of the Royal Mathematical School at Christ's Hospital. In 1675 he was appointed a Governor of Christ's Hospital. He was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London on four occasions, once for speaking French and writing in shorthand and Latin. Suffering from bladder stones from an early age, Pepys made the decision to undergo surgery. This cannot have been an easy option, as the operation was known to be especially painful and hazardous. Nevertheless, Pepys consulted Thomas Hollier, a surgeon; and on 26th March 1658 the operation took place in a bedroom at the house of Pepys' cousin; the operation was called a LITHOTOMY. Please research this procedure - it will make your eyes water.

But it was his involvement in the two subjects in the heading that Colin expanded on: the Plague of 1665/66 and the Great Fire of London. Outbreaks of plague were not particularly unusual events in London: major epidemics had occurred in 1592, 1603, 1625, and 1636. So in 1665 Samuel with his influence in the City quickly recognised and understood the causes of the spread of the disease and brought about



changes to eliminate the plague from London. His diaries are still the best account of this period to date. In 1666 it was Pepys that informed the Lord Mayor and the King of the Great Fire, he ordered the evacuation of Whitehall and was responsible with the Mayor for pulling down/blowing up properties to provide a 'Fire Break' but as we know four-fifths of the City was destroyed;

13,200 houses and 87 churches were destroyed. So along with the lesser known Diary of John Evelyn we have an invaluable source for the study of the Great Plague of 1665, and of the Great Fire of London in 1666. In relation to the Plague and Fire, C S Knighton has written: "From its reporting of these two disasters to the metropolis in which he thrived, Pepys's diary has become a national monument".

The next meeting will be at 8.00pm on 1st November in the Day Centre, when Terry Pankhurst will be talking to us on 'Entertaining organs'. All welcome.

Stephen Leaney
Tel: 647177



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TRIP TO LINDISFARNE

For a number of years, Rector Paul Wilkin and his wife Janet have been regular visitors to a small tidal island off the coast of Northumberland - the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, and earlier this year they suggested a 'pilgrimage' there in September. So, braving lashing rain and wind, 15 of us set off up the A1 (fortunately the day before it flooded!) for a very memorable few days on the island.

What makes Holy Island so special? Well, for such a small island (population 160), it is steeped in history. In 635AD St Aidan came from Iona and founded his monastery on Lindisfarne. The Christian message flourished there and spread throughout the world. Not only is it now a centre of pilgrimage, but its tranquility, spirituality and scenic beauty attract 650,000 visitors to its shores every year.



Photo: Stella Skingle

Our trip was not intended to be a retreat - more a taster of what was on offer in that place - and each of us had our own reasons for being there. We all stayed in the Marygate Retreat House, a large comfortable house which provided basic accommodation and good home cooking. Many of us attended some of the 21 (yes, 21) services held in the parish church every week and were surprised to find each service very well attended. The weather improved as the week went on and we were able to enjoy some very pleasant walks around the island with cameras and binoculars (it is a bird watchers' paradise).

Holy Island has a special place in history as the birthplace of the Lindisfarne Gospels, among the most celebrated illuminated books in the world. One of the highlights of the week was to hear a riveting talk by Rev'd Canon Kate Tristram about the creation of the manuscript, which was completed in the late seventh century in honour of St Cuthbert, a former prior at the monastery. Most of us visited the Lindisfarne Museum to view a facsimile edition; the original being held in the British Library.

Another highlight was a trip in an open boat to the Farne Islands near to where Grace Darling and her father performed their heroic rescue in 1838 of survivors from the wreck of the SS Forfarshire. We were fortunate to see some newborn grey seals, although the puffins had already left for winter at sea. On day five we set off home - some 1,359 years after St Cedd (who was trained on Lindisfarne by St Aidan) travelled to Bradwell in Essex to establish his church there - although I believe he, rather sensibly, went by sea rather than the A1.

Thank you to Paul and Janet for introducing us to this wonderful place.

Kathy West



Nature Notes

During the summer months there was a local resurgence of grass snakes. Whilst an increase in native reptiles may be welcome to some, it has to be set against their depredation of amphibians, already a serious matter nationally. Frogs, toads, newts and small fish are their principal foods so a family of snakes can make short work of the year's brood - as we have seen to our cost. It may be coincidental, but tawny owls have been heard more this year, which could (but only could) mean that one of the snake's few predators is also aware of their presence. If so, nature's balancing act may be in operation. Nevertheless there is a good case for a snake deterrent, if such a thing exists.

There seems to have been a dearth of small garden birds in recent months. In the summer they favour fields and woodland but this year's departure is more prolonged. The largely artificial nature of our urban civilisation provides a reason for compensatory bird feeding. Fortunately there is a small industry providing appropriate seeds, so as the leaves disappear please bring out the bird feeders but make sure that they are squirrel-proof. The grey squirrel's ingenuity is remarkable, so try to keep a step ahead. It has been encouraging in recent years to see an increase in lichen growth on fruit and other small trees. This is a direct result of cleaner air, so let us hope for better pollenating weather next spring so that colourful lichens may accompany a better fruit crop than many of us have had this year. There is a widespread belief that lichen growth is harmful, but the opposite is true, for numerous microfauna and flora live amongst them and sustain the all-important ecosystems.

Derek Honour
Tel: 647213



Huw Johnson Club

As I write, all our members are revving up for a spot of bowling in Bishop's Stortford. They all love doing this and get competitive as they all want to win! We will soon be practising carol singing for our service in St John's church on Friday 14th December. Everyone is welcome to join us for that occasion - look out for posters around the village.

Tom and I are gradually stepping down from organising events, but we have many enthusiastic helpers eager to keep things going. Tom and I will enjoy visiting the Club and selling sweets and chocolate. We always welcome visitors and still need another driver for the minibus. Please contact me if you think you could fill this position.

Marion Johnson
Tel: 812284

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*Stansted
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Club*

The Sunday XI completed their season on 16th September, ending with six wins, six draws and a single defeat (by two runs). The season has seen a number of promising youngsters make the step up to regular adult cricket; congratulations go to Liam Burgoine, Phil Devoti, Robert Lawson and Elliott Reed. In the Saturday 1st XI Jezza Kealy won the HECL Division 1 wicket-keeping award and Josh Monk won the U-18 award. Recent individual performances of note have come from J Ayres (76 no), J Subramaniam (75 no), P Devoti (62) and J Monk (58 no). J. Subramaniam took three catches v Stocking Pelham and his fellow brother-in-arms, David Powter, ended the season with 5-35 at Takeley. Former player and Vice-President, Bob Stoddart has kindly donated a cup to be awarded to the most promising Under-15 player each year. The first winner was Phil Devoti, below left, being presented with the cup by Chairman, Mike Burgoine.



At the SCC annual quiz held on 14th September, a most enjoyable evening saw three of the nine participating teams end level on 57 points after seven rounds. Quizmaster Matt Cope decided to divide the scores by the number of people in each team, and this resulted in Mrs Embleton's team of six being declared the winners. Thanks to all who organised the questions, prepared and served the excellent food, donated raffle prizes and ran the bar. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis next season to contact me. Any adults wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.

David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509



**STANSTED & DISTRICT
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS**

We will be holding our Constituency Dinner on Friday 23rd November, 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Henham Village Hall. The speaker will be Sir Bob Russell, MP for Colchester.

Tickets cost £30 or £20 for those under 26, available from me. There will also be a bar and raffle.

Ruth Rawlinson
Tel: 814222



**494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron
Air Training Corps**

Well, it has been another busy month for the cadets and staff at 494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron, with many taking part in the Inter Squadron Swimming at Chelmsford, seven taking part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition in Skreens Park and the whole Squadron collecting at the Airport for the Royal Air Forces Association 'Wings Appeal'. Two members of staff and seven cadets ventured over to Chelmsford to compete against the other 25 Squadrons in Essex Wing in the Inter Squadron Swimming Competition. The cadets took part in the Junior Girls and Boys events, as well as the Senior Girls and Boys events, each on an individual basis, which included free-style, butterfly and the dreaded individual medley, representing the Squadron very well, so well in fact that the Junior Girls won their age group and helped to place the Squadron 7th in the overall competition! What was really pleasing is that two of our cadets, Cpl Charlotte Fardell and Cdt Jack Wright, were chosen to represent Essex Wing at the Inter Wing Swimming Competition on Saturday 29th September; fantastic achievements by both!

We are coming to the end of the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition season for 2012 but that didn't stop seven of our cadets going out in Roxwell, Chelmsford, to complete their practice expedition. The cadets have to complete a 12 hour walk over two days, cook their meals on camping stoves and spend one night camping in a tent, all of which they are trained to do by the Squadron staff of 494. It gives the cadets the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge of not only camping skills but also their first aid and cooking skills, some of which could do with a bit of work! The expedition season starts again in March 2013 which means we have the entire winter to hone them!

The month of September is the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) 'Wings Appeal' month, and is an area of additional fundraising which 494 would not miss out on. The appeal is the cornerstone of RAFA's fundraising and raises around £2 million every year to help and support the entire Royal Air Force family, providing friendship, help and support to current and former members of the Royal Air Force and their dependants. So, in order to help this brilliant work to continue, seven members of staff and 14 cadets spent the week of the 9th-16th September collecting up at Stansted Airport, both at the weekends and in the evenings, to boost the funds. We managed to collect the wonderful amount of **£1,239.00**, with Cpl Jacob Walker collecting £565.20 on his own. This result will be put forward to our Essex Wing RAFA Competition, so fingers crossed we win the trophy again this year.

If you would like any information about joining 494 as either a cadet, a member of staff or as a member of our Civilian Welfare Committee, please do not hesitate to contact the Squadron on 681559 or email: oc.494@aircadets.org.

Flt Lt Gemma Martin RAFVR(T)
Commanding Officer



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It has been a particularly busy start to the term and our new children in Reception and Nursery have settled very well. Class 6 followed the Bikeability programme and we are pleased to report that all the children passed the end of course test. The class also spent a very enjoyable and informative day at MMCC where they worked on a cross-curricular topic about the Tour de France. Class 1 had a great day with animals from the Wood Green Animal Rescue Centre when they visited in October. Our Harvest Assembly was well attended and we managed to send several boxes of tinned and packet foodstuffs to the Braintree Food Bank.

Forest School has started for another term and a very practical and informative session was held for parents led by Aileen Smith. Forest School is an inspirational process that offers children and young people opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands-on learning experiences in a local woodland environment. It is a long-term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a forest). Each Forest School programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and is continuously developed as the children and young people grow in confidence, skills and understanding. *"Now I see the secret of making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air, and to eat and sleep with the Earth"*. Walt Whitman, American Poet.

The ethos of Forest School allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the children/young people in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating. At Bentfield all children from Nursery to Year 5 experience Forest School on a termly basis.

This term also welcomed some new PTFA members at the AGM and several events have been organised, including a Shopping Evening on 14th November, 7.30pm-10.00pm, Christmas Fair (details on page 5), 'Spooky Disco', a Craft Fair to name but a few. The school website went live during the first week of term and can be accessed at www.bentfield.essex.sch.uk. Visits for prospective parents and children for both Nursery and Reception, are more than welcome. Please ring the office on 813626 for an appointment.

Cathie Bonich
Headteacher



All the children are settling in well and the staff are getting to grips with the new EYFS. We are hoping to have been able to organise a visit for the older Group children to go to Sainsbury and view the Bakery. The children will be visiting Stansted Windmill to learn what it was used for. For everyone's information we will be continuing our links with St Mary's Primary School despite their move to the Foresthall Estate. We would like to wish Edna Baker, one of

our stalwart volunteer helpers, a speedy recovery from her hip operation.

The Committee have been busy organising events for this term. All monies raised will go towards the purchase of new wooden toys (forts, pirate ship), a possible visit by ZooLab, and the 'big project' to possibly provide a sheltered area over our walkway for parents when they are waiting. To keep the children occupied during half term there is a Sponsored Alphabet Squares with the child raising the most sponsorship winning a prize. For the adults the Committee have organised a 'Pamper Evening' at the Day Centre Crafton Green on Thursday 22nd November at 7.00pm. Tickets £11.00 to include a treatment and glass of wine. Further treatments available to purchase on the night plus there will be a variety of stalls including 'Jamie Oliver at Home', 'Phoenix Cards' and 'Cupcakes'.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child please visit www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young to ensure a place. Places for September 2013 and 2014 are filling up fast!!

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net



MOUNTFITCHET MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE



Academic success, sporting prowess and outstanding personal achievement were celebrated during the annual prize evening at Mountfitchet Mathematics and Computing College on 27th September. Pupils in all year groups at the Stansted secondary school were recognised for accomplishment across the curriculum at the ceremony. Certificates of attainment and progress were handed out in all subject areas by Mr John Hartley, Executive Headteacher of Saffron Walden County High School and the Federation.



Prizes were also awarded to the school's top sportsmen and women, to those who received the most merits during 2011-12, for 100% attendance and the coveted Student of the Year. An inspirational speech, delivered by 2011-12 Head Girl and Boy Jessie Smith and Jacob Walker, brought the evening to a moving and uplifting close.

Victoria Owen
Student and Community Administrator
Tel: 813384

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	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC	Finishing Touch Nails and Beauty	8	
	Money Saving Helpline	OBC	Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy)	10	
	Murdochs Solicitors	18	R Handford (Chiropody)	10	
	PAR Bookkeeping Services	12	Helen Bartram (Hypnotherapy)	10	
	Tees Financial	24	Julie Golden (Chiropody)	8	
	Food & Lodging	Chimneys Guest House	26	Lino Thomas (Hairdressing)	OBC
China Garden and Ho Fish & Chips	26	Lower Street Clinic	6		
Linden House	FC	Jan Rickwood (Baby Massage)	8		
Pocknell Food Co	36	Stansted Chiropractic	6		
33 Harrisons B & B	36	Stansted Psychotherapy	10		
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	18	Style Me Beautiful (Beauty & Image)	10	
	J Day & Son	12	Williams (Osteopath)	6	
	D C Poulton & Sons	18	What's a name's (Hairdressing)	IBC	
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	B'looms (Flowers & Gifts)	36	Tone Pilates	6	
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	Steve Hall Garden Services	36	Garden & Property Maintenance	34	
	J R Johnston (Trees)	8	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	34	
	Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	FC	David Fortune (Builder)	IBC	
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	Mowtivated	36	A C Wright Building Contractors	34	
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FC - Front cover

IBC - Inside Back Cover

OBC - Outside Back cover

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