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Front cover photograph:
by Daniel Brett

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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EDITORIAL



Well done to Stansted FC; not only have the team been playing attractive, exciting football this season; away from the pitch they are also involved in a football-led campaign to free society of discrimination. This month's cover captures a moment from the 'Kick it Out' event held at Hargrave Park in April, when the Club invited local children and their parents to unite with the players against all forms of discrimination. Read the Club's end of season report on page 37. The Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve is a delightful place for a wander at this time of year; meet the man behind the name on page 2. Are you concerned about the issues that caused Grove Hill to be closed in April? Find out what you can do to help on page 7. *The Royal Gunpowder Mills* in Waltham Abbey is a fascinating historic site; discover why on page 29. Finally, don't miss out on the opportunity to take part in the annual *Stansted in Bloom 2019* competition on page 22.

CONTENTS

Advertising	Index to Advertisers	40	Fundraising	Alzheimer's Society Thank you	27
Churches	CAMEO	14		British Red Cross Week	9
	Shalom	13		Christian Aid Week	15
	Stansted Family Church	14		Grove Cottage	17
	Stansted Free Church	15		St Clare Wills Month	9
	Stansted Quaker Meeting	15	Local Council News	Stansted Network	19-22
	St John's 300 club	14	Local Roundup	Birchanger Wood	7
	St John's Church	14		Diamond Wedding	2
	St Theresa's Catholic Church	13		Foodbank	3
	Thought for the month	13		Gardens of Easton Lodge	31
Children and Families	Elsenham Guides	11		Grove Hill Traffic	7
	Forest Hall School	35		Hatfield Forest	9
	Magna Carta School	23		Hundred Parishes Society	3
	Manuden Guides	11		Stansted Mountpickers	33
	Messy Church	23		Stansted Windmill	27
	Rainbow	23		Stop Stansted Expansion	2
Clubs and Community Groups	Directory of Clubs & Organisations	39	Features	Aubrey Buxton	2
	Huw Johnson Club	11		Beautiful Bee	3
	Inner Wheel	9		Editorial	1
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	31		Gardens and Cats	31
	RSPB	15		Help to Claim Universal Credit	33
	Stansted History Society	29		Nature Notes	25
	Stansted is Well Read	25	Sports	Wines for Spring	29
	Stansted Evening W I	27		Stansted Bowls Club	35
	Stansted Social Club	29		Stansted Cricket Club	35
	Stansted U3A	33		Stansted Football Club	37
	The Place on the Hill	23		Stansted Hall Cricket Club	37
	Ugley W I	27		Stansted Tennis Club	37
Health & Wellbeing	Brain Training	4	The Arts	Do you enjoy Singing?	3
	Community First Responders	4		Macbeth at St Mary's Church	25
	Stansted Pharmacy Update	4	What's On	Rhodes Complex	25
				What's on in May	5

CONTRIBUTIONS Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent separately (jpeg).

By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on 9th May for the June issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th May to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

THE MAN BEHIND THE NAME

Most local dog owners and walkers will know all about the delights of the beautiful 23-acre nature reserve off Alsa Street, but may not know anything about the man the reserve is named after. Aubrey Buxton - or Major Aubrey Leland Oakes Buxton, Baron Buxton of Alsa KCVO MC to give him his full title - was born on 15th July 1918 to an East Anglian family.



Educated at Ampleforth College in Yorkshire, he graduated from Trinity College Cambridge, served in the Royal Artillery in WWII and was decorated with the Military Cross. In 1946 he married Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Birkin, the 1930s motor racing hero. After the war, Aubrey Buxton farmed the Norman House estate in Stansted; in 1958 he became a founder director of Anglia Television. It was through his TV connections that the Stansted Carnival, once a popular annual village event, had the likes of Miss Anglia 1967 and Kenneth Horne, a famous celebrity back in the day, to lead the carnival procession and open proceedings. A leading naturalist, Aubrey was best known for creating *Survival* a nature documentary series that ran for four decades. He went on to become chief executive and later chairman of Anglia Television, served on numerous conservation bodies and was one of the co-founders of the World Wildlife Fund. He was Extra Equerry to Prince Philip in 1964, High Sheriff of Essex in 1972, and Deputy Lieutenant of Essex from 1975 to 1985. He was created a life peer in 1978 and appointed KCVO in 1996.

The Buxtons left Norman House and Stansted in 1976 having kindly donated the nature reserve, originally the pleasure park of the estate, to the Essex Wildlife Trust who still look after it. It is looking really good at this time of year so if you have never been, then visit now. You will be glad you did.



Yvonne Ayres



Further legal challenge against Airport Planning Approval

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has confirmed that it will commence legal proceedings challenging the decision by the Communities Secretary, James Brokenshire, not to intervene in the decision by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to approve the expansion of Stansted Airport to 43 million pas-

sengers per annum ('mppa'). His reason was that "the application does not involve issues of more than local importance". SSE considers this conclusion to be factually incorrect. Stansted will soon overtake Manchester as the UK's third busiest airport. Meanwhile, Stansted has fewer local employees than 15 years ago despite the airport's growth. Over 84% of its employees are not Uttlesford residents. The noise, air pollution, health and road traffic impacts of Stansted are felt far beyond the borders of Uttlesford, and the 3.7 million equivalent tonnes of carbon dioxide attributable to Stansted Airport this year will have significant adverse impacts nationally and internationally.

SSE's legal proceedings will take the form of an application to the High Court for a Judicial Review (JR) of the decision of the Communities Secretary not to 'call in' the Stansted Airport planning application. SSE already has an outstanding JR application against the Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, over his decision to allow the airport planning application to be determined locally by UDC. This case was originally scheduled for a two-day High Court hearing in February but has been 'stayed' by the Judge to await the decision of the Communities Secretary, referred to above. SSE solicitors have written to UDC pointing out that it would be inappropriate for UDC to issue any decision in relation to the airport planning application whilst these legal challenges are pending. SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented: "High Court proceedings are not cheap and so we do not take such actions lightly but only after careful thought and professional advice. SSE's primary objective is to safeguard the community and environment from unfettered and unsustainable airport expansion."

SSE Campaign Office
Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

DIAMOND WEDDING



Congratulations to Rosalind and Barry Francis of Cambridge Road who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 28th March. They were delighted to receive a celebratory card from Her Majesty the Queen.

Derek Francis



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Fields across the Hundred Parishes are turning yellow as the oil-seed rape flowers; farmers will be hoping for a bountiful harvest. Fortunately for them, research by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology found a positive but unexpected increase in key bee species responsible for pollinating flowering crops such as this. Between 1980 and 2013, the scientists had measured the presence of 353 wild bee and hoverfly species across the country. Overall, they noted that one-third of species had declined, one tenth increased, while evidence for the status of other species was inconclusive. Pollinating insects are vital for adequate seed production in crop plants as well as other species including rarer native plants which often support more specialist insects.

The UK hosts about 20,000 species of insects, many of which get eaten by other creatures. We enjoy seeing brightly coloured butterflies or dragonflies, but species like skylarks, swifts, blue tits, hedgehogs, shrews, bats and many fish require a cornucopia of moths, flies and beetles in order to survive. Assorted flies, beetles and wasps are also predators or decomposers helping to control pests and recycle dead material. The statistics in the 2016 State of Nature Report show an alarming decline in the abundance of many insect species. The causes of this decline are complex, but intensification of farming, loss of wildflower meadows, hedgerow removal and changes in climate play a part. Widespread use of herbicides and pesticides is also implicated. Herbicides have reduced the variety of wildflowers; with limited foraging opportunities many insects have become scarce or extinct. The impact of pesticides on all insect populations has far reaching consequences and is now subject to intense scrutiny to find answers. Planting suitable flowers in our own gardens benefits insects and other forms of wildlife, especially if we garden organically.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Tel: 01277 364522



CTS FOOD BANK

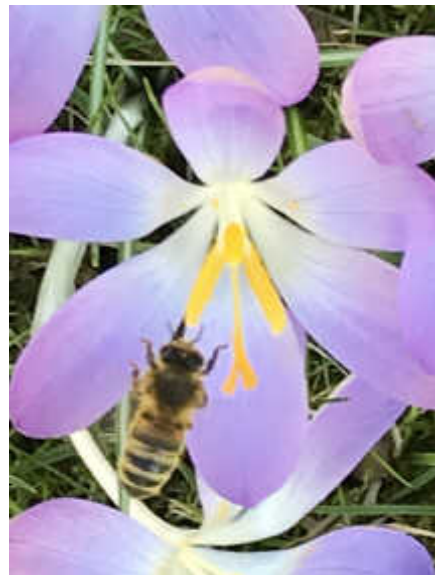
www.stanstedchurches.com/foodbank

Thank you for all the extra support that the Stansted Food Bank has received from our local community. We were delighted to receive donations from Forest Hall School this term and would especially like to thank the pupils who organised this. The response we received via the advertised donation points in the Co-op, St John's Church (Tuesday 9.15am-11.00am and Thursday 10.30am-noon) and the Free Church foyer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am-12.30pm, has been fantastic. The recent donations have made a real difference in enabling the Food Bank to keep running. Please note donations can also now be taken to Spangles Children's Centre which is open Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm. All donation boxes have an updated list of the items which are most needed.

Elaine Ballard
Food Bank Team
Tel: 816480

BEAUTIFUL BEE

John Dockerill took this stunning photograph of an early bee in his garden on Valentine's Day.



If you have a photograph you would like to be considered for publication in *The Link*, please email it to: photos@stanstedlink.org.uk.



DO YOU ENJOY SINGING?

www.swchoral.org.uk

Saffron Walden Choral Society will be holding some open sessions. If you enjoy singing, even if it is only in the bath, then come along and join us for the joyful experience of singing with a big, friendly choir. You can come to one or more of these sessions which will be between 7.30pm and 9.00pm. Bring your own cup to enjoy refreshments afterwards. We will be having a go at the *Hallelujah Chorus* and other great music suitable for a large choir. Everyone is welcome; just come along! More details are available from our website. Dates and venues are as follows:

Monday 29th April All Saints' Church, Great Chesterford
Thursday 2nd May Radwinter Primary School
Thursday 9th May Newport Primary School
Thursday 16th May St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden

Sarah Ludlow-Elston
Tel: 814376

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

UPDATE ON THE REQUEST FOR A DISPENSING PHARMACY IN THE LOWER STREET AREA

Just to remind all readers what has happened, what we have been doing and what comes next. In 2018 we wrote and sent a number of detailed reports to Essex Health and Wellbeing Board and Essex Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment Team (PNA). The PNA refused our request for a dispensing pharmacy in the Lower Street area, stating it was satisfied that there are adequate dispensing services in the area, and choices within a 20 minute drive. In January 2019 our team comprising Maureen Caton, Ruth Clifford (from the Parish Council), myself and our advisor, wrote to the Essex Primary Care, Pharmacy and Clinical Governance Lead, to once again highlight important key issues. We received a reply from the Essex County Council Director of Wellbeing, Public Health and Communities (Dr Mike Gogarty), again refusing to reconsider our need!

After very careful re-examination of our pharmaceutical needs we wrote to our MP, Kemi Badenoch, detailing the issues and asking for her help. Kemi wrote to Dr Gogarty supporting our need, and requesting a meeting in Stansted with our team and members of the community. The following dates have been suggested for the meeting: **Tuesday 14th or 21st May; Thursday 16th or 23rd May. This will be the first time we have had the opportunity to explain our issues.** We have proposed that the meeting starts with a 'walkabout' at around 6.00pm followed by an open meeting at 7.30pm. The venue has yet to be decided but it will be in the centre of the village. **Please watch the village notice boards for more information or you can email or call me.**

Ray Woodcock
Tel: 816468

Email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com

BRAIN TRAINING - CHEWING FOOD

Did you know that the process of eating helps to stimulate the brain stem? Here are five benefits of chewing your food well:

- Smelling, tasting and chewing food primes the digestive process, signalling the release of the various digestive enzymes. If prone to 'musical' outlets after eating, slow it all down and enjoy the process more. Enzymes increase digestive power and decrease flatulence
- The smaller the particles of food, the more chance we have of extracting the nutrients. Our digestive system should break food down to enter the body at a molecular level. Give it help by lightening its load
- Savouring our food makes it much more satisfying, leading to the need to eat less, which may be a good thing. Mindless wolfing decreases appreciation, which can stimulate cravings

- Really chewing food relaxes us. This also aids digestion. Put simply, there are two parts to the nervous system: the *fight or flight* (sympathetics) and the *rest and digest* (parasympathetics). To digest food well, we need to be in *rest and digest* mode. Chewing food activates the parasympathetics, diverting blood from the limbs and into the guts
- Lastly, and much less well known, is that the act of eating is a big stimulation of the brain stem, particularly the parasympathetic sections. Pretty much all parts are stimulated when we eat: smell, sight, sound, saliva, the muscles of the face, jaw, tongue and swallowing. And the more we chew and savour our food, the bigger the result. A healthy brain is utterly dependent upon a healthy brain stem.

If you are an inveterate wolfer start small. Each meal, slowly increase the number of chews per mouthful to 15, and then on to 30. Good luck!

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Trainer
Tel: 816430



COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Our recent Open Evening was attended by 20 people, seven of whom as a result of reading the article in *The Link*. We were delighted as this was just the right number for the size of the hall. Those present watched a demonstration of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and another about how to use a defibrillator. They then divided into smaller groups for individual hands-on practice using manikins.



If someone has a cardiac arrest and stops breathing, chest compressions (and rescue breaths, if you can) may keep them alive until a defibrillator and professional help arrives. The participants felt it had been an interesting and useful evening. They were encouraged to tell others at home what they had learned because the more people who are willing to have a go, the better chance a casualty has of survival.

Diana Griffin
Tel: 07733 218692



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(Bank Holiday Weekend)



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TEA PARTY

3 - 5 pm Wed 8th May
Stansted Day Centre

Tickets £6.50 from
Christine 813172 or Rosina 816916

JUMBLE SALE

2 - 4 pm Sat 11th May
Manuden Comm Centre

Part of National Red Cross Week

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

1	Wed	Juniors Open Evening	Cricket Club 6.30 pm
		Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 7.45 for 8 pm
3	Fri	Business Forum Breakfast	Linden House 7 - 9 am
		Macbeth	St Mary's Church 6.30 for 7 pm
5 & 19	Sun	Garden Waste Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
5	Sun & 6	Mon Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
8	Wed	Red Cross Tea Party	Day Centre 3 pm
9	Thu	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
		Stansted W I AGM	Day Centre 7.30 pm
10	Fri	Grove Cottage Elvis Night	Charis Centre, B S 8 pm
11	Sat & 12	Sun Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
12	Sun	Birchanger 10K	Birchanger School 10 am
		Stansted Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
13	Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club 6.30 pm
		Shalom	7 Blythwood Gardens 8 pm
14	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Ugley WI AGM	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
16	Thu	Stansted U3A AGM	St John's Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
19	Sun	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11.30 am
		Messy Church	St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm
21	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 pm
25	Sat	U3A Seminar	Free Church Hall 9.30 am
26	Sun & 27	Mon Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
28	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
		Inner Wheel	Day Centre 7.30 pm



ELVIS TRIBUTE NIGHT

8 pm Fri 10th May

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9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Sat 25th May

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Thu 2nd May Radwinter

Thu 9th May Newport

Thu 16th May Saffron Walden

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Come to one or more evenings!



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www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



OPEN DAY

11.30 am - 5 pm (last entry 4.00 pm)

Sunday 19th May

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Thaxted Morris Dancers

at 12.30 pm

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UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon

Sat 18th May

Ugley Village Hall

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Please wear loose clothing and bring an exercise mat.

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AIR POLLUTION AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON GROVE HILL

The air pollution has been measured on Grove Hill by Uttlesford District Council; the average level between March and October 2018 was found to be **47.43 micro grams** per cubic metre of air. This exceeds the World Health Organisation limit of **40 micro grams/m³**. [*This information is provisional and has yet to be calibrated.*] Air pollution is a real hazard for people's health. Any increase in the number of vehicles using Grove Hill will exacerbate the pollution levels and health hazard.

There are currently two further planning applications in Elsenham, reference UTT/19/0462/FUL and UTT/19/0437/OP. The first is for 130 and the second for 44 dwellings. If approved, they will increase traffic by approximately 1.5 vehicles per household, many of which will travel along Grove Hill into Lower Street. You can object to these applications by emailing planning@uttlesford.gov.uk; include the UTT references above and state that you object to the development. The building of these homes will significantly increase the numbers of large lorries in excess of 7.5 tonnes which regularly travel up and down Grove Hill, many in breach of the weight restriction. This is ignored by 99% of HGV drivers, and the authorities to date have done nothing!



One of these oversized vehicles crashed into our house, which is why Grove Hill was closed in April while repairs were carried out. If you wish to raise any concerns about traffic problems contact the Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, or you can take pictures of traffic jams or oversized, overweight vehicles using Grove Hill and send them to Ray Woodcock email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com as he is campaigning on these issues. You will need a number plate, the lorry company name, if visible, and the date and time your photo was taken. If enough of us complain, maybe the authorities will listen.

Claire Rivers
Email: clairerivers72@gmail.com

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www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

The coppicing season has come to an end at Birchanger Wood. Volunteers have laboured hard over the winter to cut back trees to allow light onto the woodland floor, boosting the flora and helping to support biodiversity. In line with a management plan devised by conservation experts and overseen by our warden Pat Forrest, Birchanger Wood Trust is pursuing this time-honoured method of woodland management with sales of firewood from coppicing helping to sustain our work. We look forward to another summer watching our woodland benefit from continued management and developing a legacy for future generations.



Educational Events

We have a packed series of events led by local science educator and conservationist Jono Forgham. The first is our moth trapping night on **Friday 31st May**, when we will be attracting moths to a moth trap to study which species are living in the wood and noting the biodiversity; no moths are harmed and they are freed afterwards. The result of this survey will be forwarded to the County Recorder and will help build up a list of all the moths that may be found within the Wood. Please bring a torch and meet at the compound, at the Heath Row entrance in Bishop's Stortford from 9.00pm. Other future educational events will include a family bio blitz day, bug hunts, a butterfly identification survey and leaf mining study. Please visit the events page on our website for further details.

Daniel Brett
Secretary

Email: danielbrettdotcom@gmail.com

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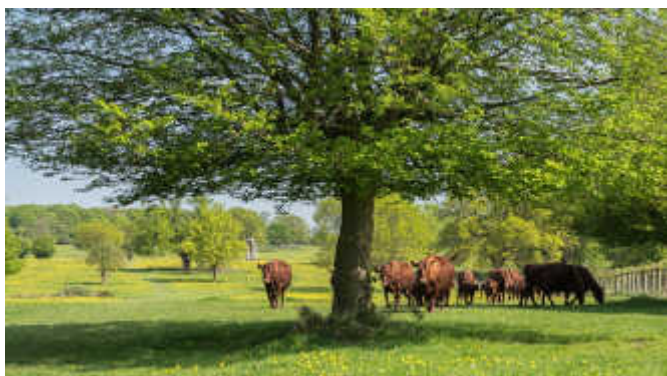
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HATFIELD FOREST – COME AND ENJOY THESE MAGICAL WOODLANDS

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

It is early summer and the grassland of Hatfield Forest is carpeted with gold, as our spectacular display of buttercups comes into bloom. At the last count there were an estimated 300 million flowers! Roaming among the buttercups, you will see our herds of Red Poll cattle. Red Poll are known for their gentle nature, and are well suited to grazing historic wood pasture like ours. This year we have around 200 cattle on the main plain and Takeley Hill, including this year's calves. Cattle are a crucial part of conservation work at Hatfield Forest. Their grazing prevents areas growing into young woodland, keeping a balance of habitats. Now that the cattle have returned it is particularly important to consider them when walking your dog. We want visitors to enjoy themselves but when you are near the cattle, please keep your dog on a lead. Walk around them in a wide circle, rather than through the herd, which could separate mothers from their calves.



May is a perfect time for families to enjoy the natural world together. During our *Magical Woodland Elves and Fairies* events, enter a secret world to explore the forest, looking for hidden fairy doors. For those wanting to discover the wider forest, our geocaches are now ready to be found by adventurous treasure hunters; scavenger hunt sheets are available from the kiosk and hub, to help you identify our birds, butterflies, plants and fungi. Our rowing boats will be available to hire from the end of this month. For more details about all our events visit our website.

Helen Hooker and Elizabeth Reeve
Visitor Welcome Team
Tel: 870678



BRITISH RED CROSS WEEK

We have two fundraising events: a **Tea Party** on **Wednesday 8th May** from 3.00pm in the Day Centre, tickets £6.50 from me or Rosina Kirkwood (816916); and a **Jumble Sale** on **Saturday 11th May** 2.00-4.00pm in Manuden Village Community Centre, entry 50p. Proceeds from both events will go to the British Red Cross, helping people in crisis.

Christine Stiles
Tel: 813172

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD

At our regular Club meeting in March, member June Milne gave us an update on her voluntary work with the *Felsted Aid for Deprived Children* UK-AID charity and how it continues to support and help the many people in Ukraine still affected by the Chernobyl Disaster in 1986. On Saturday 23rd March a Coffee Morning was held at Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church to raise funds for President Margaret's chosen charities.

Our next Club meeting on **Tuesday 28th May** will be an Open Evening when we will welcome a surprise speaker followed by light refreshments. The time will be 7.30pm at the Day Centre and visitors will be welcome. Please contact me for more information about the Club.

June Milne
Club Correspondent
Tel: 01371 875370



ST CLARE HOSPICE WILLS MONTH

This June, in partnership with eight local solicitors' offices, the hospice is inviting everyone in West Essex and East Herts to make or amend their will during their annual *Wills Month*, which runs from Monday 3rd to Friday 28th June.

"All of us want to secure the best possible future for our families. However, making a will is not often the first thing

on our list and having a will in place ensures that you provide for your loved ones, spouse and children after you are gone," says Sarah Thompson, CEO. For a suggested minimum donation to St Clare, you will be able to make one of the most important documents in your life with a local solicitor; and the entire cost will be donated to St Clare. The suggested minimum donations are: £130 for a Single Will; £180 for a Double Will; £90 for an amended Will. **The participating solicitors include:**



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www.foort-tayler.co.uk

Wade & Davies 28 High St, Dunmow CM6 1AH 01371 872816
www.wadeanddavies.co.uk

Heckford Norton 12 Market Walk, Saffron Walden CB10 1JZ
01799 522636 www.heckfordnorton.co.uk

Booking is now open; just be sure to mention *St Clare's Wills Month* when you make your appointment. For more information please contact St Clare Corporate Fundraising Manager, Amy Jacobs on 773758 email: amy.jacobs@stclarehospice.org.uk.

Chris Carter
Communications Volunteer
Tel: 773752
Email: communications@stclarehospice.org.uk

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MANUDEN BROWNIES AND GUIDES



Back in February, 18 Brownies and Guides slept over at the Community Centre. We had a fun time completing challenges to gain the *Woolly Sheep badge*. These involved games, craft, watching *Shaun the Sheep Movie*, and of course, food: turning cakes into sheep using icing and mini marshmallows. We put our own choice of topping on pizza slices, and ate them and our cakes for supper. This was followed by hot chocolate and marshmallows; but most of us still managed to sleep! Some girls are now old hands at residential, but it was the first time away for some and they coped brilliantly. It is so good to spend time together, other than at the weekly meetings, giving us the opportunity to get to know each other better.



Guides visit *Hairspray the Musical*

A group of our Guides recently went to the Rhodes Theatre in Bishop's Stortford to see a production of the international smash-hit musical comedy *Hairspray*, staged by the Bishop's Stortford Musical Theatre Youth. The visit has become an annual event, and this year's performance did not disappoint. The acting, singing, dancing and staging were all superb; a truly professional performance by all the talented young people, some of whom we recognised as they had previously attended our Guide unit. The visit was made possible by a grant awarded to one of our girls, Emily Howells, by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

If you are a girl aged between seven and ten, then Brownies is for you; Guides are aged 10 to 14. At the moment, we have a waiting list for Brownies but have a few spaces for Guides. Contact me or ask any of the girls, for more information. Also visit the Girlguiding website: www.girlguiding.org.uk.



Glynis Prothero
Tel: 814145 or 07835 717942
Email: glynisprothero@aol.com



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club had a busy few weeks prior to breaking up for the Easter holidays; much fun was had at the new Ace of Lanes Bowling Alley in Bishop's Stortford, with strikes and spares all round. We also enjoyed a Bingo evening, a rather lively Music Quiz and a great night out at the Rhodes Arts Centre watching *Hairspray the Musical*. Our new term begins with a pub trip to the Chequers in Ugley for dinner and drinks,

and there is a jam-packed timetable to look forward to over the summer months.

We are delighted to have been chosen as one of the beneficiary charities of the *Stansted Fun Run and Walk* on Sunday 9th June. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up, and if you are thinking about doing it this year, go for it; we will be there to help cheer you on! The Club would like to say huge congratulations to one of our volunteers, Andrea Enston, who has had one of her pieces of artwork (a dry-point etching of Cromer Pier) shortlisted for the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition - an incredible achievement! The Huw Johnson Club is a social group for adults with learning disabilities, which runs on Thursday evenings in Stansted. We are always looking for new members and volunteers, so if you fancy getting involved or want to know more, just let me know.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 461270

ELSENHAM GUIDES



Spring Term Comes to an End

Spring term has finished at Elsenham Guides, and it has been a couple of months full of fun. The girls have got to grips with photography, including holding an exhibition at the end of the term with their best photos. We celebrated *Pancake Day*, with some homemade pancakes, and *World Thinking Day*, which is a day of international friendship in the Guiding calendar, with this year's theme focusing on leadership through time. On top of all of that, we have also been making the most of the resources we have by upcycling old bottles and plastic containers into planters and greenhouses, and learning about sustainability.



Next term is set to be great fun, as we make the most of the lighter evenings and get outdoors in and around the village. We have a cook-out, an evening celebrating the summer solstice and an extra special sporting event to end the term. If you have a daughter aged between 10 and 14 who would be interested in joining a unit of lovely, like-minded girls, who go on adventures, learn new skills, make new friends, and most importantly have fun; then please do get in contact using the details below.

Gemma Lewis,
Unit Leader
Tel: 07792 572423
Email: elsenhamguides@gmail.com

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OPEN MORNING
WEDNESDAY
15TH MAY
9:30AM

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Some of us will remember the magical visual transformation of H E Bates' 1958 novella *The Darling Buds of May* to the TV series starring David Jason as 'Pop' Larkin, 1991-1993. Bates' title was taken from Shakespeare's Sonnet 18, "Shall I compare thee to a Summers Day" and I was particularly awestruck by the visual manifestation of the blossom-laden trees and the Queen Anne lace hedgerows in the verdant portrayal of the Kent countryside in the TV shows.

I think Bates used the pregnant landscape and the 'Happy go lucky' carefree characters to represent the rebirth of a new happiness and hope in a country diminished by the bleak austerity of war and rationing. I really love the way the lushness of nature emerges throughout the month of May, heralding the promise of happy summer days, which was captivated by the intense colours of the TV films and so personifying a future of rich promise.

The Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, Mother of Jesus because through her, God becomes physically manifest amongst us to herald a brand new creation and a vision of beauty for our world. In the Annunciation Story, the Angel greets Mary with the word "Rejoice"; whilst the Prophet Zephaniah foretells the event with the words "The Lord your God is in your midst. He will exult joy over you. He will renew you with His love".

Just as May is a month of wondrous expectation which sees the fulfilment of nature emerging, so Mary enabled the fruitful fulfilment of God's promises and assurances for a beautiful, uplifting and noble future for all mankind through the birth of her precious Son and his glorious message of salvation.

David Morson
St Theresa's Roman Catholic Church

ST THERESA'S CHURCH

Our Social on St Patrick's Day brought out the Irish in everyone. An Irish band, led by David Morson, played Irish music all night. We had lots of great songs and singing from the broadsheets, a tin whistle player and some terrific Irish dancing from little Olivea, who charmed our hearts. There were more Irish soda bread, barm bracks and scones than would be needed to open a bakery, plus lots of Irish cheeses and hams. We started the celebration early so that all the families with children could join in, and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Eileen Quinn



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Sunday 10.00am
Holy Days of Obligation see St Theresa's website
Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri 9.30am

Confessions
Saturday 10.00am
and by appointment

Baptisms By appointment



Our next meeting is on **Monday 13th May** 8.00pm at 7 Blythwood Gardens, when Margaret Silvester will be playing some more of Phyllis Harrison's memoirs which she recorded for the History Society. Phyllis was a very active member of Shalom until recent years. All are welcome.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



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

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

Our **@27** meetings are normally held on alternate Tuesdays; 7.30pm coffee for 7.45pm start. This month we will be meeting on **Tuesdays 7th and 21st May**. **@27** is a house-church or homegroup-style meeting with modern worship music, a Bible-based *thought for the day*, discussion, prayer and more. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith and a vision to benefit our community, why not get in touch? All are welcome; you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or have a prayer-request, please contact us.



Ros and Howard Page



C.A.M.E.O (Come and Meet Each Other)

We meet at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Day Centre. The cost is £1 per session and includes an evening topic followed by fellowship over tea/coffee and biscuits. In March a great evening was had by those who turned out to hear Elliot Kervin share his life story to date; he is a former Royal Marines musician and future minister in The Salvation Army. The evening included interesting conversation, music and homemade Welsh cakes.



On 21st May the group will be welcoming Rev'd Sarah Forrest from Holy Trinity Church, Bishop's Stortford to share with us her life story and the lead-in to her entry to ministry. Why not join us to meet Sarah and make some friends amongst the group. Bishop's Stortford Salvation Army also meets each Sunday morning at 10.30am (Markwell Pavilion, Castle Gardens) and you would be welcome to join us for our Sunday service. We hope to see you soon.



Lieutenant Megan Kervin
Tel: 507464
Email: megan.kervin@salvationarmy.org.uk

All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243
Office hours: 9.00am-12 noon Mon,
Wed, Fri
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btik.com

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

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Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

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

Church Hall Bookings: Barbora Dragoskova
Tel: (with answerphone): 815243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com

St John's Diary

Sunday

8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.30am Family Communion (1st Sunday)

Tuesday

9.15am St John's Tots

Wednesday

9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday

10.30am-noon The Coffee Pot

Monday-Thursday and Saturday

5.00pm Evening Prayer

A monthly service of Holy Communion is held for residents in two Stansted care homes: on the first Wednesday (Hargrave House) and the second Tuesday (Mountfitchet House).

From St John's Registers

March

Baptisms

17th Louie James Kenneth Higby
24th Ellin Rose Holland

Funerals

20th Betty Marjorie Waterman - at St Mary's followed by interment in the churchyard

21st Edward Thomas Laird - at St Mary's followed by burial at cemetery

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the March draw:

£100 No 145 Stuart Ayres
£50 No 224 Ann Conroy
£25 No 202 Olly Pocknell

The draw for May will be held on **Sunday 26th May** following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each per month are still available for anyone who may wish to join the Club, and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2500 given away each year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE
www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml

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Tel: 503024
Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com
- Lettings** Richenda Whitehead
Tel: 07773 603618
Email: richendajw@live.com
- Meeting** Sunday, 10.30am every week
- Light Group** 10.30am-12 noon 11th May. The
(Guided 'Experiment with Light' is a process that
Meditation) helps people deepen their spiritual lives by
discovering what it means to 'wait in the
Light', as early Quakers did.



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

Preachers for May

5th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - New Directions
12th 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin
19th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme
26th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion



RSPB STORT VALLEY

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley/events

Our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday 14th May** 7.30pm at Bishops Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco) will be a talk by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. This talk was originally to have taken place last December but had to be rescheduled for May. The talk broadly outlines the work of the Trust, their current campaigns and projects, and how individuals can get involved or join. Entry: £3.00 members, £5.00 visitors.



This month we have our annual weekend trip, this year to Northumberland. A visit to the Farne Islands will be a 'must do'; described by Bill Oddie as the UK's Galapagos. Please register your interest with Lee (see phone number below) so that we can get an idea of numbers. Depending on interest and time available, we hope to add other locations to this trip. Boat trip fees will be payable and, as always, donations to the local group are also welcome. For more information contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Helping the World's Poorest Mums

When a woman gives birth in this country it is usually in a clean hospital with a trained midwife in attendance. In Sierra Leone there is often no accessible health centre or a trained nurse, so mothers die in childbirth, and new born babies do not survive. Christian Aid has already started to change this by helping communities build health centres and by training midwives. By making a donation in **Christian Aid Week 12th-18th May**, you could help give more pregnant women and babies in Sierra Leone and around the world the greatest gift - the gift of life. Donations can be made online at www.christianaid.org.uk or to me. Look out for the Christian Aid Week television adverts, which will also have a number to text donations. Thank you.



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GROVE COTTAGE LOTTERY AWARD

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded £110,000 Lottery funding for our Ofsted-regulated Special Needs Nursery. The grant will go towards the costs of running the nursery, which is the only facility in Hertfordshire for pre-school children with learning disabilities and complex medical needs, which can also support children without a formal diagnosis but are showing signs of a development delay. This is vital for many children with conditions like Autism which can take many years to diagnose. The nursery also provides specialist facilities, including a multi-sensory room and adapted outdoor play area, as well as weekly activities, such as swimming lessons.



Maria Sims, the nursery manager said: "Thanks to National Lottery players, this funding means that we will be able to continue to support children under five who have additional needs, as well as their families. We have to raise £45,000 every year to keep this facility open so this donation really has secured the future of our nursery for many families in the future". Rupal Shah from The Lottery Fund expressed his delight in being able to fund the nursery, as it provides such a wonderful education and care for children with special needs. We have places available in the nursery, which runs Monday to Thursday and encourage anyone who has a child with additional needs or a developmental delay to get in touch. Please email: nursery@mencapgrovecottage.org or call 656085.

Alison Cameron
Fundraising Assistant
Tel: 651908

GROVE COTTAGE RECEIVES DONATION

Members of The Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Round Table visited Grove Cottage's Wednesday evening Adult Social Club recently to present a cheque for £4,500, which was raised from donations to their Santa Sleigh collections in November and December 2018. The team of volunteers took to the streets of Bishop's Stortford and Stansted over six evenings armed with buckets and smiles, and of course Santa and his sleigh, to collect for both Grove Cottage and the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers who made this possible, and everyone who kindly donated money to the Santa Sleigh. Every penny

raised will help Grove Cottage to continue to fund clubs and activities for people of all ages with learning disabilities and to provide respite for their families and carers. Phil Street



from the Round Table said: "We were delighted to be able to present this cheque to Grove Cottage and meet some of the members, staff and volunteers at the Grove Cottage Adult Social Club. It's always great to see at first hand where the money is making the difference".

PERSONAL AWARD FOR BEN WALLACE

Grove Cottage member and volunteer, Ben Wallace aged 25 was delighted to receive a Personal Award at the 2019 High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Awards on 14th March for his involvement with Grove Cottage. The award recognises Ben's personal growth and development which he has gained through ongoing volunteering at the @ Thirst Youth Café and the Grove Cottage Special Needs Nursery. Ben said: "I am so happy to be presented with this award. I love going to the café each week and also helping with the children in the nursery. It has helped me to gain confidence, make new friends and learn lots of new skills."



Rosie Wren
Fundraising Manager
Tel: 651908

Email: fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org

ELVIS TRIBUTE NIGHT

www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Come and experience the music that created a true Rock 'n' Roll legend! Well known and highly respected Elvis tribute artist and entertainer Alvin Printwhistle presents his Ultimate Elvis Tribute Show in aid of Grove Cottage on Friday 10th May at 8.00pm in The Charis Centre, Water Lane, Bishop's Stortford. Tickets are £20 which includes a curry buffet meal; telephone 651908 or see our website.

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

THE MOUNTFITCHET EXCHANGE

At the time of writing (early April) there is a huge feeling of frustration that we are not able to give residents a date when the building will be operational.

The outstanding issue we have is that we are waiting for Openreach to install the fibre optic cables for the internet connection in The Exchange. We cannot accept handover of the building until this is complete. Unfortunately, the site was not registered by our contractors with BT at the appropriate time to schedule the work in line with the project completion. We are obviously addressing the issue with contractors.

As soon as we have a date from Openreach, the Library Service will install their computers and set up the rest of their operation and we can at long last open the building.



The picture above shows the area where the library will operate from. There will be a Parish Council officer behind the reception desk to deal with any issues residents have.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

What is the vision for the Neighbourhood Plan?

The Stansted Mountfitchet Neighbourhood Plan is being compiled by local residents and the Parish Council. It establishes a vision for the evolution and long-term sustainability of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish and village. The plan sets out a vision for the future of the parish and planning policies, which will be used to determine planning applications locally.

The Vision for Stansted Mountfitchet Parish described in the Neighbourhood Plan is as follows:

To conserve the strong historic character and rural setting of the Parish by ensuring that development is sustainable, protects valued landscape features, maintains and enhances Stansted Mountfitchet village, strengthens a sense of community, and enhances the well-being and quality of life of existing and future residents. To ensure that the Parish remains a healthy environment, friendly and a great place to live.

What are we trying to achieve?

We have identified various Key Issues for the future of the Parish which include:

- the development of the London Stansted Cambridge Corridor (LSCC)
- development at Stansted Airport
- congestion in and around the local road network
- strategic rail improvements
- strategic growth proposals in the emerging Uttlesford Local Plan
- flood prevention measures
- management of footpaths within the Parish
- the need for more community facilities and public open space.

Our draft Neighbourhood Plan aims to address these Key Issues, whilst recognising that some of them are national/regional infrastructure issues which are sometimes beyond the influence of our Neighbourhood Plan. We have, however, included them because our proximity to Stansted Airport, and the LSCC, will doubtless have implications for our vision for the parish and its development.

Where are we up to now?

We are close to finalising a draft Neighbourhood Plan, which will then go out to public consultation within the parish.

What will happen next?

We hope to complete the draft Neighbourhood Plan, hold the first public consultation during the next few months, and then submit the Neighbourhood Plan to Uttlesford District Council later this year.

There will then be a further round of public consultation before the Plan is submitted to the Independent Examiner and we hope that the final referendum on the Plan will take place in 2020.

Where can I find out more?

If you would like to know more generally about the process of Neighbourhood Planning, a good place to start is on the Uttlesford District Council website page:

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplans

If you would like to know more about the specifics of our draft Neighbourhood Plan before we go out to public consultation, then please contact the Parish Council, who will put you in touch with the Neighbourhood Plan team: email: parishcouncil@stansted.net or 01279 813214 (10.00am – 1.00pm Mon – Fri)

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS

- **Produce draft Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Public Consultation (we are here)**
- **Minor changes to draft plan**
- **Submit draft plan to District Council**
- **Public Consultation**
- **Examination of the plan. If the examiner rejects the plan, changes can be made and the consultation process restarts. If it is approved it goes to the next stage**
- **Referendum. If more than 50% of residents support the plan, it is adopted and published. If less than 50% of residents support the plan it can be reviewed and any changes made then go back to the consultation stage.**

ELECTIONS

By the time this edition of The Link drops through your letter box the local elections will only be a few days away. There is no election for Essex County Council this year, and as there were 13 nominations for the 15 places on the Parish Council, this election is uncontested and the following were declared as duly elected by the returning officer:

NORTH WARD

Alan Barnes
John Hudson
Ayub Khan
Alfred Miti
John O'Brien
Frances Richards
Geoffrey Sell
Daphne Wallace-Jarvis

SOUTH WARD

Daniel Brett
Maureen Caton
Rafik Fowel
Jonathan Harding
Joanna Kavanagh

There are two District Council wards in Stansted, which each return two District Councillors. The following have been nominated:

STANSTED NORTH WARD

Nick Church - Conservative Party
Alan Dean - Liberal Democrats
Joe Lewis - Labour Party
Alfred Miti - Labour Party
Geoffrey Sell - Liberal Democrats
Josie Thompson - Conservative Party

STANSTED SOUTH & BIRCHANGER WARD

Daniel Brett - Labour Party
Melvin Caton - Liberal Democrats
Gary Davey - Conservative Party
Ayub Khan - Liberal Democrats
Jennie Sutton - Conservative Party
Thomas Van de Bilt - Labour Party

LITTER

The Spring Village Litter pick was blessed with a lovely Spring morning and 35 volunteers reported for duty.



Most of the residential and commercial areas in the village were covered. Some of the more problematic areas on the approach roads to the village were also covered but for health and safety reasons we cannot allow volunteers to litter pick on roads that have no footpath, so we rely on the Highway Rangers to clear those areas.

A big thank you for all our volunteers and to Churchill's Fish and Chip shop for sponsoring the event.

The Stansted Mountpickers (see article on page 33) were awarded a grant of £200 to buy additional equipment by the Parish Council. The Parish Council have also issued litter grabbers and red litter sacks to residents who like to go out by themselves and pick litter on their walks around the village. We are happy to do the same for any other volunteers.

ALLOTMENTS

It is now over three months since the allotment site at Elms Farm was handed over to the Parish Council and our tenants got to start work on their plots. During that time the site has changed out of all recognition. We have been able to offer plots to 50 residents and there are currently five people on the waiting list.

There will be a much smaller allotment site on the Walpole Meadows estate, which will be handed over to the Parish Council once all the construction work is completed.

The plans show seven plots but depending on the size of the plots we may sub-divide these. We already have a number of names on the waiting list for these plots.



If you wish to apply for an allotment please contact Trevor Lloyd in the Council Offices.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings start at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated

May	
8	Annual Council
15	Full Council
22	Open Spaces
June	
5	Full Council
12	Highways 7.00 pm F & GP 8.00 pm

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford
Assistant to the Parish Clerk - Trevor Lloyd
Administration Assistant - Emma Philbrick
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 10.00am - 1.00pm
Website: www.stansted.net
Contact details for your new Councillors are available on the Parish Council web site and we will publish full details in the June Link.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER

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

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel 0207 219 1943 (House of Commons) or 01799 506349 (Constituency Office).
Email kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk
There is an MP's surgery on Friday 10 May in Stansted. Please contact Kemi to arrange an appointment.

POLICE

Non-emergency 101
The Community Policing Team has its own email address which is monitored daily:
braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle 813433 Joy Thomas 813871

STANSTED LIBRARY

Watch out for the move into The Mountfitchet Exchange building - check the Parish Council website for details.

Tuesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm - 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 5.00pm



STANSTED IN BLOOM 2019 COMPETITION

We hope as many residents as possible will take part in the competition, and this year we would like you to choose your own theme. Hopefully, this will result in many different beautiful displays around the village.

Entry Form to be completed and returned by Friday 12th July to:

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, Council Offices, Crafton Green House
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Copies of this form are also available on www.stansted.net or from the Parish Council

Name of resident/business/organisation

Address

Contact Tel. no. _____

Email _____

Location to be viewed (please be specific re location, e.g. front garden, tubs at side of house etc).

- garden area
- tubs
- hanging baskets
- communal area



STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch

Our next event is on **Sunday 19th May** 3.30pm-5.00pm at our usual venue of St Mary's School. This relaxed and lively style of church for all ages has activities, celebration, food and plenty of **FUN**. Everyone is welcome, particularly families with children aged under 12, and there is no charge. This will be our last session until the autumn. See our website for more details.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

Many thanks to the Whelby Dental Practice who supported us during *Healthy Body, Happy Me* week. This year it focused on oral health. Did you know that 25% of children have experienced tooth decay before the age of five? Over the period of three mornings, groups of children visited the dental practice where Anna the hygienist plus a dental nurse showed them how to brush and look after their teeth correctly. Everyone was given the opportunity to sit in the dentist's chair, go up and down and practise opening their mouths wide to show their teeth. Every child received a goody bag containing a toothbrush, timer and toothpaste plus a chart to encourage brushing twice a day. It has sparked many conversations about who has been to the dentist and what type of toothbrushes they use, and when they should brush their teeth. Tooth brushing practice has carried on at preschool on our rubber teeth model. The last week of term was filled with Easter activities including making Easter nests and bunny printing.



Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY

Developing kind and respectful young people is top of the agenda at a primary school. Magna Carta Primary Academy marked **Stephen Lawrence Day** on 22nd April with a range of activities to highlight racism and bullying. The day also saw the school's first anti-bullying ambassadors appointed in Year 2; a tradition which will continue every year on the same day. The work is all part of the school's ongoing mission to stamp out discrimination in all forms and to ensure young people grow up appreciating and celebrating their differences. Headteacher Marios Solomonides said: "It is all very well teaching English, maths, science and history, but if you are not a kind and respectful person, it means nothing. Without this work, everything else is meaningless. Our school rules are to be safe, be kind and work hard. They are in order and 'work hard' comes last as we have to be safe and we have to be kind; they are the most important traits we can teach children. Stephen Lawrence was a similar age to me and I remember being really shocked at his murder. Now, it is not quite as shocking when we hear of another murder and that is the sad reality of life. We have got a duty to show our children that enough is enough with regards to young people being killed and that message has to start with respect."



The school is also working with its diverse families to share lessons in Argentinian, Italian and Spanish cooking, flamenco dancing and the Jewish and Polish cultures. The Headteacher said: "This is all a part of the same thing. It is about showing our children that we embrace and celebrate each other's differences and similarities."

Kelly Clark
Tel: 01245 237751 or 07979 811580



Free drop-in for all ages organised by and held at Stansted Free Church, Chapel Hill, open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm, including school holidays. WiFi, computers, newspapers and magazines to read, good company plus comfortable seating, free refreshments and a separate space for children to play with toys and run around. Please note we are **not open** on Mondays 6th and 27th May.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

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 Monday 6th 2.30pm **The Amazing Adventures of Pinocchio**
 Saturday 11th 7.30pm **Purple Zeppelin**
 Sunday 12th 12.30pm **Come Alive: Karen Howarth School of Dance**
 Thursday 16th 7.30pm **Verve: Mixed Bill**
 Friday 17th 7.30pm **Ronnie Scott's 60th Anniversary Tour**
 Thursday 23rd 7.30pm **An Evening of Eric and Ern**
 Friday 24th 8.00pm **Think Floyd: Live in Concert**
 Saturday 25th 3.00pm **An Elephant in the Garden**
 Monday 27th 2.00pm & 6.00pm **The Wizard of Oz**
 Friday 31st 7.30pm **The Nat King Cole Story**

At thescreen Stortford

Wednesday 8th 7.30pm **Live Encore: The Importance of Being Earnest (12A)**
 Wednesday 15th 7.30pm **RSC Live Encore As You Like It (12A)**
 Tuesday 21st 2.00pm and 7.30pm **Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake (12A)**
 Thursday 30th 7.30pm **Backstreet Boys: Show 'Em What You're Made Of (12A)**

At themuseum Stortford

Saturday 4th 11.00am **Free Museum Tour**
 Tuesday 7th 11.00am **Take Me Back Tuesdays**
 Wednesday 8th 1.30pm **Story Time at the Museum**
 Friday 17th 7.30pm **Museums at Night**
 Saturday 18th 11.30am **International Museum Day**
 Monday 20th 12.30pm **Lunchtime Lectures**
 Friday 24th 7.00pm **Miss Pye and Mr Barber**
 Saturday 25th 11.00am **Take a Walk Down Memory Lane**

To book tickets please call us or visit our website.

Elizabeth Murphy
Tel: 710200

Email: info@rhodesartscomplex.co.uk



MACBETH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Thisismytheatre perform *Macbeth* on **Friday 3rd May** 6.30pm for 7.00pm at St Mary's. Tickets: adults £12.50, Friends of St Mary's £10.00, from www.thisismytheatre.com or call 07732 253311. A fantastic night's entertainment awaits you right here on your doorstep. See you all there!



Tony Graver
Secretary

A sinister visitor to Stansted

On a walk along the River Stort in Stansted (opposite the sewage works in Lime Kiln Lane) a couple of years ago, I noticed a bird perched on top of a hawthorn bush that looked at first like a small magpie. I stopped and watched and listened to it for a while, thinking something wasn't quite right. With a bit of patience, I managed to get a little closer to watch this bird that looked, sounded and acted like a magpie, but clearly was not a magpie. Referring to my bird guides a little later, I realised that I had seen a Great Grey Shrike. They are 22–26cm in length with a stocky body and a long tail; they are rare winter visitors with only 20-30 birds gracing our shores each year.



The first part of its Latin name, *Lanius* meaning 'butcher' could not be more apt, because, after chasing down a small bird or dropping on voles, lizards, or even a stoat, the shrike beats its victim to death with its inch-long beak. Shrikes can lure their prey by mimicking their calls and then pouncing like a sparrowhawk. However, the shrike's feet are too weak to hold its food while it is being ripped apart, so it finds a secure anchorage, such as a blackthorn or a handy barbed-wire fence, to assist with the dismembering process. Surplus food may also be impaled for storage. These 'larders' are typically around a metre above ground and can be found anywhere within the bird's territory. So, if you are out for a walk and you see impaled robins, voles and even fish on barbed wire or hanging in a hawthorn bush, keep an eye out for this very rare bird.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 7th May** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing *Three Things about Elsie* by Joanna Cannon. This *Richard and Judy Book Club Pick* is a moving, bittersweet tale of ordinary lives, buried secrets and nostalgia. Please do join us; we meet on the first Tuesday of every month and a warm welcome will await.



Anne Watson
Tel: 898693
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

business networking

If you are a business in Uttlesford or North Essex then come and join the Stansted Business Forum.

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WHEN: First Friday of every month
WHERE: Linden House
CONTACT: Peter James telephone 01279 813318 or email peter.james@murdochsestateagents.co.uk



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STANSTED EVENING WI



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

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'Doppelgangers read poetry' was the title of the talk for March. 'Doppelganger' means a double of a living person. There they were, John Jemison and Neil Richardson, dressed alike in smart green jumpers and white shirts and each with a small white beard; though one was taller than the other. Sounding alike, they told us how they met. When Neil moved to Braintree, he found that people kept greeting him with "Hello John", and although it was the wrong name, he thought how friendly people were! They met while they were on the same coach trip to London and quickly found similarities. Both had trained as teachers in the same college in Chelsea, though did not meet then. Both taught RE in the 60s. John eventually became a headmaster and Neil a vicar. They discovered that they sang in choirs, liked poetry and wrote verse themselves. In 2016 they appeared on a Channel 4 programme called 'Finding my Twin Stranger' and were assessed out of the seven pairs taking part as the most alike; this included DNA tests to ensure that they were not related. They subsequently appeared on the radio and Network 7 Australia came over and filmed them. All this was interlaced with some of their poems, which were varied and enjoyable.



We hope that some of you have found a green heart in the village, which WIs everywhere are using to show how much we care about our land and the effect of climate change on the future. We have sent one to our MP and hope that she will support the cross-party letter calling for net zero carbon emissions by 2050. **Thursday 9th May** is our Annual meeting where we look back over the year and elect our new committee. Some of our craft work will be exhibited. All are welcome, 7.30pm in the Day Centre.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

THANK YOU

The fundraising event held at 49 St John's Road on Saturday 6th April raised a magnificent £750 for the Alzheimer's Society. Grateful thanks to the jolly band of helpers, everyone who attended and to the local businesses who supported this worthy cause. Thank you.



Keith and Sandra Ayres

Our AGM in March was an enjoyable evening. All our Committee members agreed to stay on and continue serving for another year and were duly re-elected. After completing the AGM formalities and serving the wine and nibbles, we were treated to a very interesting talk by Roger Barrett of the History Society, entitled *Trade Tokens*. The presentation included slides showing various types of coins which were used by traders and shopkeepers in the 17th century in and around our locality. Thank you for that, Roger. Our first opening on Sunday 7th April turned out to be a very gloomy day weather-wise; however, I am pleased to say we still had a good number of visitors and they enjoyed their tour of the Mill. We also had a visit from Melissa, a very nice photographer from the Bishop's Stortford Independent newspaper, who took some photographs and enjoyed looking around the Mill; all good publicity for us!

Windmill openings in May 1.30pm-5.30pm

Bank Holiday weekend Sunday 5th and Monday 6th, National Mills weekend Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th, Bank Holiday weekend Sunday 26th and Monday 27th.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Painted angels and a host of wild daffodils; just some of the ingredients of Ken McDonald's fascinating talk at our last meeting. In the space of a lovely spring afternoon, Ken, Secretary of the Hundred Parishes Society, took us on a journey whose itinerary included the ancient churches of Radwinter, Great Bardfield and Aspenden, some beautiful manor houses, a vicarage and St Edmund's College and its amazing chapel, a water pump and a mill. Sadly, space doesn't allow us to include all the parishes we visited, but sitting in our village hall viewing the wonderful images of these timeless places made us realise that despite all the building work going on around us, there is so much of our green and pleasant land left to enjoy! More information about the Hundred Parishes Society can be found on their website at www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The next meeting on **Wednesday 15th May** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall will be our AGM. At our June meeting, on **Wednesday 19th June**, we will be enjoying the very entertaining memories of Phyllis Harrison, a lovely lady who was a member of Ugley WI for a great many years, and no stranger to readers of *The Link*. Why not come along and share her memories with us? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Royal Gunpowder Mills

Richard Thomas delivered a presentation on the *Gunpowder Mills* at Waltham Abbey, to a well-attended meeting. He spoke about the science and source of gunpowder going back to at least 300 AD China, and the first written record in England in 1044. He informed us of the dangerous manufacturing process; it was first used at the battle of Crecy 1346. Gunpowder developed over the centuries with the introduction of nitro glycerine, guncotton and cordite. The Government acquired the site in 1774 and it became the Royal Gunpowder Mills with up to 4000 staff, half of them women.



The Mills has a long and fascinating history. It played an essential part in military history, national defence and in the development of civil industries such as mining and quarrying. It is a story of a family-run business, which prospered and grew to become Crown property and a major local employer of workers in the Lea Valley and beyond, where people risked their lives to earn a crust. The Mills is designated a Scheduled Monument, the highest protection that can be given to a historic site. Its landscape is shaped by 300 years of making explosives and propellants. Sealed off from the outside world, it features many listed buildings, waterways and dry canals, and an alder tree plantation which supplied the wood to make charcoal, one of the three ingredients of gunpowder. The alder plantation is now part of a nature reserve - a site of special scientific interest which attracts a diverse range of animals and plants. If you would like to visit, tickets may be purchased on the day. Check their website for prices and opening hours.

Next month's meeting is our AGM on **Thursday 2nd May** 7.45pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre, when we will hear a short talk by one of our members.



Steve Leaney
Tel: 647177

WINES FOR SPRING

It has taken a while for spring to arrive, but now with us in May, we can consider fresher wines to suit sunnier days and lighter meals ahead. Love it or hate it, Sauvignon Blanc has a great fresh taste to go perfectly with new season asparagus. Its zingy crisp taste makes it a great wine for spring. One that did well in the 2018 Air New Zealand Wine Awards was the Brancott Estate *Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc*

2018, widely available at most supermarkets from £8.00 to £9.70; it is intensely fruity with lovely tropical flavours. Also search out the 2018 *Blind River Awatere Valley SB* from Majestic, £9.99 as part of a mixed case. A little oak ageing gives this more complexity but still with intense flavours and tropical aromas. Keep an eye out for a couple of cracking good value rosé wines from Aldi. *Cotes de Thau, Cap L'Agde* 2018 at £4.99 (half the price of a Provence rosé) is fresh tasting with nectarine aromas; the 2018 Exquisite Collection *Touraine Rosé* from the Loire at £5.99 is wonderfully juicy with hints of raspberry.

The Cabernet Franc grape is also from the Loire and it produces some lighter reds from Chinon, Bourgueil and Saumur (Champigny). If you have not tried one before then the Les Nivieres 2016 *Saumur* from Waitrose is a good place to start with some good berry fruit and enough acidity and tannin to pair with food. At 12.5% it is not super heavyweight so all the better for spring and summer drinking. Young Pinot Noir reds from Marlborough in New Zealand, Chile or California are also good at this time of year. A great example is the *Villa Maria Cellar Selection Pinot Noir* 2016 from Waitrose at £15.99; not cheap but has good aromas of cherries, juicy red fruits on the palate and smooth tannins. Lovely easy drinking!



Paul Wilkinson
Email: Corkscrew_456@hotmail.co.uk

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

So still we wait! It is frustrating as we are keen to start the tower repairs but we are a small matter of £85,000 short! Negotiations are ongoing to raise the finance and we will post any updates on our Facebook page. An application has been submitted for a Heritage Lottery grant to cover the cost and we are hoping to have a decision soon. Committee members have been working hard to get the cottage at the rear of the Club ready to be rented out again. Like the infrastructure of the Club, the cottage has been sadly neglected over the years, so there is lots of work to do.

Entertainment

Our entertainment has been going from strength to strength and we are almost fully booked for 2019. We also have three bookings for 2020, including the fabulous *Innerheart Band* bringing their fantastic reggae beats back to the Club. The new bands have generally gone down really well. We will certainly be welcoming back *The Chevrons*, *Johnny One Eye* and *The Boney Moronies*. May starts with an event on **Saturday 4th** followed by another new band, *The Kix*, on **Saturday 11th**. They will be playing all of your favourites from Punk to New Wave, from 1976 to 1981. We have private parties booked for the Saturday 18th and 25th, but members are welcome to attend and enjoy the discos. We also have our regular Prize Bingo nights every Tuesday, with eyes down at 8.00pm. There will be no karaoke on the last Sunday of the month as it has been moved to **Sunday 2nd June**. You can also pop down for the climax to the Premier League and Champions League, as well as darts, motor racing, cricket, rugby and much more.



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Mini Spring Show

The Day Centre was transformed by a colourful display of flowers, shrubs, houseplants and flower displays. This year all 16 classes had entries; the first time for many years, even though the mini-heatwave in February and cold spells in March caused the usual chaos with the flowering season. Those late-flowering daffodils, which are usually outshone by the tulips, ensured a splash of yellow on the show table. The individual class winners were announced after the AGM; a full list is on our website. Certificates will be presented at the next meeting. Thank you to all members who took part, especially to John who judged the entries.



AGM

The Chairman reported that the Club had another successful year with members enjoying the very varied monthly talks. The Treasurer outlined the Club's finances and advised that the cost of speakers and their mileage allowance has increased substantially and therefore it was necessary to increase the subscription rate. All Committee members agreed to stand again and were re-elected *en bloc*.

2019-20 Season

May signals the start of the new season, and it is the ideal time to become a member. Our annual membership fee is £20. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings for which there is a nominal charge of £3. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month (with the exception of January). Unless an evening visit has been arranged, meetings are held at the Day Centre, 7.30pm for 8.00pm, with refreshments available prior to the talk. Our guest speaker on 1st May will be Maïke Windhorst who will talk to us about *Vegetable Self-Sufficiency for All Seasons*. The full 2019-20 programme is available on the website.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144

GARDENS AND CATS

One of my favourite Just So stories was *The Cat That Walked by Himself*. As a child I loved the fact that although Woman outwitted several of the animals, Cat outsmarted her. Maybe I identified with the rebellious streak or the fact that Cat couldn't be tamed. The longer quote in the story is: "I am the cat that walks by himself and all places are alike to me." I was reminded of this the other day, standing opposite a rather irate lady in the consulting room who had just uttered the classic line, "Well, what are you going to do about it?" The 'it' in question was her lovingly tended vegetable patch used by the neighbourhood cats as their toilet. Cats are clean animals but don't distinguish between their owner's or neighbour's property; they just 'go' where conditions seem ideal and to a cat, digging over the vegetable patch or flowerbeds means "I've just finished cleaning the bathroom, you can use it now."

Well, what can you do about it? Frustratingly little, as all the advertised solutions are ineffective; whether it's fake animals with glowing eyes, or spraying ammonia, mothballs or lion poo around your garden, cats stroll past them with haughty disdain. Physical barriers are best: cover your vegetable beds with netting, so the cat cannot reach the soil; grow ground cover plants in your flower borders with some prickly shrubs like Berberis, or get a dog! Of course, one of the most obvious things, often overlooked, is don't encourage cats into your garden in the first place. If you think it's sweet to feed your neighbour's cat, don't be surprised if the cat starts spending more time in your house or garden; you have basically told it "Pull up a chair, I'll put the kettle on. The toilet? Yes, it's that third flowerbed on the left." Happy gardening!



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



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May is a lovely month at the Gardens, with the leaves still looking fresh, the handkerchief tree flowers wafting in the breeze and fruit and vegetables becoming established in the walled kitchen garden. This year though it will be doubly special as the Italian garden lily pond will be bouncing back from its clean-up and restoration; we will hopefully be seeing the restoration of the stone steps into the Italian garden.

Our Open Day on **Sunday 19th May** will focus on the wild animals which live in the Gardens. We will have bug hunting and other nature activities and we will be joined by our beekeepers, Uttlesford Badger Group, Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB as well as plant and craft stalls. We are also very pleased that Thaxted Morris Dancers will be with us at 12.30pm. The gate will open at 11.30pm, and we will have our usual refreshments: hot and cold drinks and of course bacon and cheese rolls and homemade cakes. For further details, see our website.

Jill Goldsmith
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

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A great way to begin this month of May could be to join Tony Wellings on one of his informative nature rambles. Hopefully the bluebells will be blooming.



Our AGM will be held on **Thursday 16th May** in St John's Hall. Doors open at 1.30pm. All members should have received a Notice of AGM and nomination form. If not please email stanstedu3a@gmail.com or call 07874 385541. We have some vacancies on the Committee and would love to see some new (or old) faces stepping forward or being nominated. Don't be shy; you will be welcomed with open arms! The next **Saturday Seminar** is on **25th May**. Dr Neil Faulkner FSA is coming along to talk to us about *Lawrence of Arabia: Excavating a Legend*. He is an archaeologist, historian and writer who lectures widely. Neil and his close colleague, Professor Nick Saunders have run a ten-year project of field research on the archaeological remains of the Arab Revolt of 1916 to 1918; so this promises to be a particularly interesting seminar. See the Events page on our website for ticket information. If you missed the last Seminar on *George and Robert Stephenson*, brought alive by the incredible presentation skills of Dr Michael Bailey, you can read the review in the News section on our website. There are still some spaces left on the September holiday to West Sussex and Brighton. A private visit by coach to Copped Hall, Epping is coming up on **Wednesday 8th May**. For full details of both these events and lots of other activities, please visit our website; and you could soon be enjoying a class as much as our new French Group pictured above.

Eileen Quinn



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Uttlesford Citizens Advice has launched a new service called 'Help to Claim' for those who need help to apply for Universal Credit, the new benefit which combines six benefits into one, including Jobseekers Allowance and Working Tax Credits. People will be able to get support from the charity as they submit their Universal Credit application until they get their first full payment. Help will be tailored to indi-

viduals and is available face-to-face in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow (call 01799 618840 for an appointment), by calling a national helpline number, 0800 144 8 444, and online, through webchat and advice content at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Kate Robson, Chief Officer of Uttlesford Citizens Advice, said: "We know that many people really struggle to complete the application for Universal Credit, especially if they do not have easy access to a computer. Our new 'Help to Claim' service will support people locally, whether they simply need help to get online using our public access computers, verify their identity or gather the right evidence; our aim is to make sure their applications are processed and they get the benefit as quickly as possible. If you are already claiming JSA, ESA or Working Tax Credits there is no need to apply for Universal Credit until asked to do so by DWP (Department of Work and Pensions). For the majority of people, it is better to stay on existing benefits, where possible. If you are unsure, speak to one of our trained advisers. If you are worried about having enough money to live on while waiting for your first Universal Credit payment, we can also help with applications for advance payments, check your entitlement to other benefits and offer budgeting and debt advice, if needed."

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STANSTED MOUNTPICKERS

Our Council do a brilliant job of trying to keep our streets clean, but unfortunately there is just too much to manage. Recognising this, last autumn I started a weekly, one-hour litter picking group. Since then, our small group continues to fill all the bags we can physically carry in the hour.



Unfortunately, there is always a lot more litter than we can collect due to the number of hands we have. Our group is now being supported by the Parish Council who are making it possible for us to meet at Crafton Green car park. I run the pick every Sunday at 10.00am but no volunteer is obliged to come every week, any time you can make it is a bonus. All equipment is provided; just make sure you dress according to the weather (maybe not in your best clothes). We currently have an average of four people turn up each week, but unfortunately that is just not enough for the litter we are dealing with. Please contact me for further information or to check whether sessions are running. I hope to see some new faces.

Jennifer Bone

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FOREST HALL SCHOOL



Teenagers have been warned of the dangers of being recruited by drug-dealing gangs

Year 10 and 11 students and teachers worked with theatre company *Alter-Ego* to learn about the reality of *County Lines*. The trend sees gangs deliberately targeting vulnerable young people and coercing them into dealing or running drugs for them. They exploit children and young people into selling drugs, often using dedicated mobile phone 'lines' to supply drugs to others from across different counties. Gang members groom young people into doing this work by threatening and tricking them into trafficking for them. A



45-minute production on the topic highlighted the hidden dangers of *County Lines* and gave students the opportunity to ask questions. Teachers were told the signs to look out for in a young person caught up in *County Lines*, including being secretive about who they are talking to or where they are going; unexplained absence from school; unexplained additional possessions; disruptive or aggressive behaviour and using sexual, drug or violence-related language.

Erin O'Dell, assistant head, personal development, behaviour and welfare, said: "The production focused on highlighting the concerns of this prevalent topic. It hopes to educate students, so they are aware of the possible dangers of such involvement and be mindful of the topic in order to protect themselves if approached."

Kelly Clark

Tel: 01245 237751 or 07979 811580



Stansted Cricket Club

At our AGM in March, Ben Baker was elected 1st XI captain with Huw Edwards as vice-captain; David Powter was elected 2nd XI captain with Duncan Taylor as vice-captain. The Sunday captaincy will rotate between several senior players, depending on who is available each week. Fixtures have now been released for our 1st XI in the Herts & Essex League (HECL) Division 2. Both Saturday XIs have away fixtures on 4th May. Home fixtures for the first month of the season include:

Sun 28th Apr Sunday XI Hatfield Heath (Friendly) 14.00

Home matches for May

Sun 5 th	Sunday XI	Epping Foresters (Friendly)	14.00
Sat 11 th	1 st XI	Hatfield Heath (HECL 2)	13.30
Sun 12 th	Sunday XI	Clavering (Friendly)	14.00
Sat 18 th	2 nd XI	Saffron Walden V (CCA JL 4S)	13.30
Sun 19 th	Sunday XI	Stocking Pelham (Friendly)	14.00
Sat 25 th	1 st XI	Thorley I (HECL 2)	13.30

If you are interested in sponsoring the Club (whether by an advert in the fixture card or a large banner displayed at the ground), please contact our Sponsorship Manager Huw Edwards email: huwr_edwards@hotmail.com. The juniors are holding their Junior Registration and Open Evening from 6.30pm on **Wednesday 1st May** in the Club pavilion at Hargrave Park (Cambridge Road CM24 8BY). All current and prospective members are invited to attend and sign up for the new season. Weather permitting, all players will be able to try out the bowling machine. The bar will also be open for alcohol and soft drinks. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring on a regular basis to contact me. Adult players wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge
Hon. Secretary
Tel: 812509



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

It is exciting for the Club to have one of our young players take on the big boys. In March, Shaun Hill was selected to play for the Essex County Indoor Under 25 team at the Eastern Counties Auker trophy tournament, followed by a league fixture against Cambridgeshire. In April he was selected to play in the Inter-Counties two wood triples competition in Worthing; well done to Shaun.



The Seniors, Ladies and League teams all start to play in earnest during this month. The friendlies at the weekends start as well. The League teams play on a Wednesday evening with matches taking place from 6.15pm. The Ladies play on a Thursday afternoon from 2.30pm and have matches at Stansted on 2nd, 9th and 30th May. The Seniors play on Tuesday 7th and 21st May at home. Come along and support the teams. We are still running our offer for membership with **One year's full membership, which allows you to take part in Club matches and competitions and full use of our discounted bar for just £10.**

We are a small club with a big heart; we play because we enjoy it and have a few laughs along the way. Of course, it is nice to win and it is nice to be the best, but it is especially nice to be in the company of good friends enjoying a game. This we can promise you at Stansted Bowls Club, so come along on a Friday evening (our social evening) and meet a few of the players and help to put the world to rights; you know it makes sense.

Peter Beattie
Hon Secretary

Tel: 07850 329192

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com

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STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The Club would like to thank all the children and parents who took part in our 'Kick it Out' afternoon last month. We are fully committed to the campaign to eliminate all forms of discrimination.

As the season curtain comes down on what has been the most successful year the Club has had since 2010, we have one more important match to look forward to, and that is the **League Challenge Cup Final** to be played on **Monday 6th May** against West Essex, at Bishop Stortford FC, kick off 3.00pm. It is a nice local venue, so we are hoping to have lots of support to cheer the team on to winning the cup, and end the season on a high note. When we look back to this time last year, the Club was facing the possibility of relegation. Our Committee unanimously took the decision to back its Management Team of Paul Pittuck and Mark Bentman, despite raised eyebrows by many in the non-league football community. Their hard work in assembling a group of talented players has demonstrated their desire to win silverware for the Club and build a strong bond with local supporters and players. Of course, as we move into the close season many clubs from higher leagues have already started to look at certain individuals; our superb goal keeper Charlie Turner who won the *Golden Gloves* award for the most clean sheets and Callum Ibe our top goal scorer, are just two players who richly deserve an opportunity to progress to the next level.



The Club would also like to congratulate our Over 45s Veterans team who have completed their first season of competitive league football by finishing mid-table. They also brought a special kind of atmosphere to the Club. Team Manager Gary Cook is looking to build on their success for next season. Finally, as we take a break from football for a few months, the Club Committee would like to wish all those connected to Stansted FC a great summer, recharge those batteries; we go again in August.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

All Stars Cricket begins on **Friday 10th May** for all five- to eight-year-olds wanting to have fun playing cricket. If parents want to know more please contact me.

The Club regrets that it will not be rebuilding the cricket pavilion destroyed by fire in October 2016 and will no longer play cricket at Elsenham Place. The Club was unable to raise sufficient funds to build a suitable new pavilion. We are extremely grateful for all the support received for this project, in particular from Mrs Clarke, the owner of Elsenham Place. The Club will continue to play cricket at its other ground on the Elsenham Road, near Stansted. We also intend to retain our name. After nearly two and a half years of hard work by the Club it became apparent that this project had stalled. It must be a huge disappointment for the village of Elsenham; with all of the expansion, the village deserves better sporting facilities. In my opinion the Club was let down badly by two large funding streams that had made indications of support. However, we did receive monetary support from individuals. Those who made larger donations will be contacted but for smaller donations they can be repaid if you contact me before Sunday 30th June. Otherwise the Club will put the money towards the Junior Section. We will be looking for another ground in the area.



David Brown
Tel: 831011 or 07788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Membership

The new membership year has now started, so if you would like to join please download a membership form from our website. There are four Club sessions a week and there are many club tournaments held throughout the year. We have several teams in the Essex Small Clubs League. Congratulations to three of our teams who won their divisions in last summer's league: Men's 2, Mixed 2 and Ladies 2. Coaching for juniors and adults is available from two qualified coaches for all levels at very competitive rates. Non-members are welcome to come along to the Club, up to three times a year as a visitor (£2 per adult per visit) to try us out first.

Junior coaching

The junior coaching programme, open to members and non-members of the Club, is now up and running. Group coaching sessions are held on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4.00pm. Please contact Ollie Toms, for further details on 07917 652014, email: ollie@olliestennis.co.uk.

Ladies' night

Monday 13th May from 6.30pm.

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DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Rainbows (Friday)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Rotary Club	Martin Budzinski Tel: 07803 878961 Email: martin@voucherpacks.com
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Tuesday)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Brownies (Wednesday)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 812348 Email: vcl.essexwest- uttlesfordadminhub.nhs..net
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Secretary: Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Corkers Netball	Lisa Menzella Tel: 07827 988732	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Cricket Club (adults) (juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Nic Devine Email: kinglouie.huskies@gmail.com	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris, Chairman Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis, District Commissioner Tel: 814434	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly, Publicity Officer STC Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btintetnet.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Ray Smith, Chair Tel: 813270
History Society	Peter Brown, Chairman Tel: 812816	Women's Institute (Stansted)	Anne Watson, President Tel: 898693
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	Women's Institute (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace, President Tel: 850215
Inner Wheel Club	Margaret Webb, President Tel: 503225	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	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.)	
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768		
music@stansted - classical concerts	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk, Chairman Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove (Administrator) Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wednesday)	Rachel Roberts Tel: 078648 21905		

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

Index to Advertisers

IFC - Inside Front Cover			IBC - Inside Back Cover			OBC - Outside Back Cover		
Animal Care	Debs Dogs	26	Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	26			
	Mercer & Hughes	OBC		J Day & Son (Stonemason)	26			
Building Services	A C Wright Building Contractors	38	Hairdressing	Briggs Mobile Hairdresser	16			
	Churchill General Builders	38		Barnet Fayre	16			
	David Lee	38		Claire's Gents Hairstylist	16			
	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	38		Lino Thomas	OBC			
	David Fortune (Builder)	OBC		The Mainstreet Barber Shop	16			
	PRZ Design (Architects)	38	Halls for Hire	Quaker Meeting House	16			
	Uttlesford District Council	38		Manuden Community Centre	16			
	Techni-Pave	IFC		Ugley Village Hall	16			
	Vester Property Services	IBC	Holidays & Travel	Absolute Travel	IBC			
Carpentry	Canfield Carpentry	32		Variety Holidays	18			
	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	32	Household Installations	D C Alarms	30			
Chiropody	R Handford	10		Mediacomms	30			
	Julie Golden	10		SDS Aerials	30			
Cleaning	Binwash	IBC		Sygma Security Systems	30			
	Clear Ovens	18	Ironing	Dunmow Ironing Parlour	18			
	Ecaterina Domestic Cleaning	18	Jeweller	John Wilson	8			
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	18	Legal	Herts and Essex Wills	26			
Community & Care	Hargrave House Care Home	8		Lever & Co Solicitors	26			
	Hearing Help	8	Leisure	Golf World	IFC			
	Helpline	8		Stansted Social Club	16			
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	8	Motor Repairs	D Bonney & Sons	32			
	Ross Nursing Services	8	Music Lessons	Priest (Piano, Violin, Singing)	12			
Computing and Office	MCM Computer Services	10		Hamilton (Singing)	12			
	Taylor Computer Service	10	Networking	Stansted Business Forum	26			
	Witts End Business Services	10	Osteopathy & Physiotherapy	George Cooper (Physiotherapy)	6			
Dance	Graham School of Dance	12		Quendon Osteopathy	6			
	Mitchell School of Dance	12		Williams (Osteopath)	6			
Dental	Castle Dental	6	Painting, Decorating & Plastering	Ada Decorating	34			
Education & Children	Birchanger Butterflies Nursery	12		Brown's Painting & Decorating	34			
	Howe Green House School	12		David Duncan Decorating	34			
	Rainbow Pre-School	12		Lesley Anne (Painting)	34			
	Tuition (ages 4 - 11)	12		MWR Interiors	34			
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	36		Nick Shutes	34			
	CK Electrical	36		Prime Decor	34			
	D S Mason	36		Ray on the Hill	34			
	Stansted Electric	36		T F Plastering	34			
Estate Agent	Murdochs	IBC	Personal Services	Bentfield Beauty Spa	10			
Family History	Past Discoveries	26		Fresh Leaf (Hypnotherapy)	10			
Financial	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC		Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy)	10			
Furniture & Flooring	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	32		Stansted Psychotherapy	10			
	Furniture by Design	32	Plumbing & Heating	Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC			
	GFF Bentley & Howell (flooring)	32		JDW Gas Heating Specialist	36			
	Peter Worby Antiques Restoration	32		Jones (Plumbing & Heating)	36			
Fitness	Body Barre	6		M Lloyd and Son	36			
	Flexible Strength	6		Newman's Home Services	38			
	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6		Orion Heating	38			
Food & Drink	Hadham Brewery	OBC		P Knight Plumbing	36			
	Lams Chinese Takeaway	IBC	Printing	Stansted Gas Services	36			
	Mayflower Chinese Takeaway	IBC		Chogou Printing & Embroidery	18			
	Mouchak (Indian)	24		CZ Design & Print	18			
	Phuket Thai Takeaway	24	Property Maintenance	Do-It-4U	34			
	Sonargow Indian	24		Fairweather Windows	IFC			
	Tea Boutique	24		Finch and Son	OBC			
	The Dog & Duck	24	Retailers	Herts & Essex Window Doctor	36			
	The Rose & Crown	24		Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts)	IFC			
Garden Services	Creative Cascades	30		Squires (Gifts, Plants and Cards)	38			
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC	Soft Furnishings & Sewing	Stansted Upholstery	32			
	H2O Plants	28		Stort Blinds	IFC			
	Illuminating Gardens	30		Teach me to Sew	12			
	Gill Owen & Colin Frost	28	Tree Surgeons	All Aspects Tree Services	28			
	Langthorns Plantery	28		Tree Management Company	28			
	Mowtivated	28		Uppercut Trees	28			
	The Secret Gardener	28						

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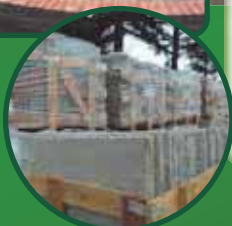
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