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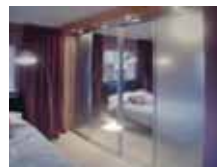
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**Front cover:**

April sunset in The  
Spinney by Dale Crowson  
enhanced by  
Paul Burt Photography

**Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine**

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**CONTRIBUTIONS** Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent as separate attachments (jpeg). By email (preferred) to [editor@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk) by noon on 9th April for the May issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th April to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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## EDITORIAL



Our thanks to Dale Crowson for this absolutely glorious tree photo taken in April last year. Trees really are the most magnificent of living things and this picture is such an excellent glorification of them. However, we are puzzled as to its identity. Various suggestions have been put forth, and crab apple seems to be the most common idea. Do drop us a line if you know exactly what this arboreal beauty's name is; we would love to know.

You will note in this month's articles that an air of optimism pervades, with the gradual easing of lockdown and hope of reopening venues. What made me smile more than anything was to read how happy the nursery and primary schools are to be together once more. They are all so incredibly creative and imaginative. We are so looking forward to the return of the page 5 *What's On* section; do you remember that very helpful way of seeing details of upcoming events in the local area? The last time we had that page was in April of last year; let us hope that soon there will be so much going on in the village that we can reinstate that very useful item. In the meantime, vaccinations continue apace; Krishna reports on his very positive experience on page 19. We were delighted to receive the article below from George Braeckman, and we do wish him every success with his Youth Council.

### STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET YOUTH COUNCIL



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

I have the honour of being a member of the Stansted Mountfitchet Youth Council. The interest in this council has been great in quality, but unfortunately lacking in quantity; there are currently only two members! I seek to provide the public with information as to our aims and encourage those who are interested to join. The Youth Council gets a huge amount of encouragement from the Parish Council (PC), and we hope to build bridges with Uttlesford District Council too.



Currently, we are talking to the PC and advising them on the issues of concern to young people in Stansted. We are also hoping soon to have conversations with those in charge of local policing as well as those formulating local development plans. We are looking at the provision of sporting facilities locally and how the PC can encourage outdoor activity and exercise among young people. We understand the great achievements the PC has had in this area with the skate park and the recreation ground and are looking to replicate these successes. We hope that we will see positive outcomes. So if you are interested in joining, please contact the PC. Tel: 813214 or email [parishcouncil@stansted.net](mailto:parishcouncil@stansted.net).

George Braeckman

We are delighted to be able to open the doors of South Mill Arts again to our wonderful customers. From 29<sup>th</sup> March (fingers crossed!) we will be able to offer a take-away service of hot drinks, tasty cakes and sweets Monday-Friday 10.00am-3.00pm. We will be closed over the Easter Bank Holidays, but make sure you check the website as the Museum will be featuring some on-line craft ideas for the Easter holiday to keep the little ones entertained at home. From **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**, we hope to be welcoming our children's classes back to the building and inviting you to stay and relax in our garden with our full bar service. We are so excited that on **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, if all goes well, the building will re-open to the public to enjoy the Maltings Bar, Museum and Cinema.

For half term we will be open and hosting the fantastic production *Morgan and West: Fantastic Family Magic Spectacular* on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** and our popular craft activities will also be back for you to pre-book. In addition, we have an amazing treat, *The Secret Garden Experience*, for the whole family to enjoy. Check our website and social media pages for more information on this magical adventure, upcoming films and live music dates. *Call Me Merman* will be coming to our stage on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**, where Rosemary Ashe, Olivier Award nominated star of London's West End, pays tribute to Ethel Merman, the legendary first lady of the musical comedy stage. We cannot wait to welcome all of our customers back to South Mill Arts; we have missed you and are excited for the fun to begin! For further details on our social distancing and Covid policies, please see our website. As with everything this year, all dates and shows are open to change and we will be following the latest government guidelines and advice at the time.

Jennifer Austin  
Tel: 710200





## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

The church opens daily for you to visit to spend quiet time and to enjoy the peaceful surroundings. Due to Covid we have not been able to run events for well over a year, but hopefully things are moving into a much more positive phase and my planning hat is on again. During lockdown last year, the organ restoration, which I know many of you supported, was completed. Our thanks to Keith Turner for leading this project and to Keith Ayres for his time and energy. Hopefully in late June, Keith will welcome you to see and hear the restored organ; more details soon.

Theatre returns to church and I am very excited to welcome back our much-loved thisismytheatre! *The Secret Garden* is scheduled for **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August** at 1.00pm. Tickets: adults £15, under 16s £12, available from tel: 07732 253311 or from [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com). Friends of St Mary's get reduced price tickets at £12.00 (add CCT friend in promotion code box at checkout). This will be a treat for the whole family. If you have not been to theatre at the church before please do come!! You certainly will not be disappointed. What better than theatre right here on your doorstep? I look forward to welcoming you all back to St Mary's; hope to see you soon!



Lynda Dale  
Tel: 07716 099474

## THE ZEBRA THAT NEVER WAS

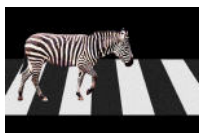
Many years ago everyone agreed  
A zebra crossing is what we need  
Sited in Lower Street as a vital aid  
To safety. Plans were made.

More years passed before permission was granted  
Yet more before work finally started  
The cones arrived and workmen appeared  
Did most of the work – then disappeared.

Over one year on the cones are still there  
But no zebra markings anywhere  
How much longer must we wait?  
For our crossing in black and white paint.

Why the delay? Nothing's been said  
If it's lack of paint – there's some in my shed!  
Traffic's heavier putting lives at stake  
Whoever's in charge please give us a break.

Two orange beacons stand in place  
Forlornly guarding an empty space  
People still struggle trying to cross  
At the famous zebra that never was.



Loki

## THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON TUBERCULOSIS

Just as many of us have been rightly fearful of the Covid pandemic over the past year, so in the 19<sup>th</sup> century many lived in fear under the shadow of tuberculosis. This was of world-wide concern. The solution to one of the causes of TB was discovered following ten years of research in Stansted. In 1901 there was an International Congress on TB in London. The speech by the revered scientist Robert Koch, who had discovered the *Tuberculosis bacillus*, was eagerly awaited by the audience of world scientists (see photo). To their surprise and dismay Robert stated that humans could not be infected with bovine TB by drinking milk, unpasteurised at that time. Many scientists disagreed. It was decided a Royal Commission should be established.



The treasurer of this London Congress was Sir James Blyth who lived in Stansted. He immediately offered free use of farms in the village for research. For this willing contribution Sir James Blyth in 1907 became Lord Blyth.



This medical research was considered so important that, for the first time, it was funded by the government. The young scientists who did the work lived in houses in Stansted. Their ongoing results were carefully studied and supervised by experienced professors who regularly visited the village. Three wooden laboratories were also constructed here so the results could be analysed. All this took time and the final report was not issued until 1910; it stated that it had been proved beyond doubt that milk from cows who had TB could infect humans, particularly infants. This led to milk being pasteurised, which killed the TB bacteria. The Government fully understood the importance of this work and it was agreed that in the future they should fund medical research, which led to the founding of the internationally respected Medical Research Council.

Ros



## BENTFIELD NURSERY

[www.bentfield.essex.sch.uk](http://www.bentfield.essex.sch.uk)

We have remained open throughout the recent lockdown. This half term we started a new topic learning about plants and insects. The children have enjoyed planting sunflowers, runner beans and cress; they have learnt about what plants need to grow and have been delighted to see their seeds begin to sprout.



They have learnt the names of the different parts of a plant and hope to see our home-grown plants develop. We have a rôle play garden centre where we enjoy dressing up with gloves and aprons and using garden tools. The books *Jaspers Bean* and *Oliver's Garden* were used to enable the children to think about the different vegetables and flowers that they could grow. We created flowers and vegetables using different materials including egg cup daffodils and hand print carrots, as well as cabbage leaf painting, all of which are on display in the classroom.



The nursery team dressed up for book day to support our theme which the adults enjoyed as much as the children. We are really excited to see more children back now that schools are reopening and thinking of fun activities for our next topic *Fairy tales* starting after the Easter break.

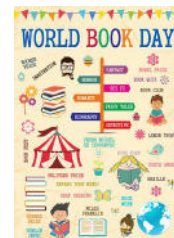
Rachel Grant  
Head of Learning Support



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

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

With apologies to Cilit Bang's Barry Scott, the school took a *Bang! And the Reading's Back!* approach to the whole school return on 8<sup>th</sup> March. We decided that reading would be prioritised over the coming weeks and we have been full to the brim with reading activities to tie in with World Book Day (WBD). Whilst some of our normal WBD activities have been curtailed by current restrictions, the children thoroughly enjoyed our *drop everything and read sessions* that were held at varied times every day. We were visited by a masked reader (similar to ITV's masked singer, identity still unknown) and the children received their £1 book token. To fully round off our reading emphasis we incorporated art by every pupil painting a book character onto a pebble to make a reading-pebble-snake, which has curled its way around our mindfulness garden.



There are a couple of staff changes: Mrs Wakefield is taking over Chestnut class whilst Mrs Lawrence is on maternity leave and likewise Miss Kadir is covering Mrs Day's maternity leave in Whitebeam.

Matthew Curzon  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

Email: [office@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)

## BOOK LAUNCH – DON'T COME LOOKING

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

Following the success of my Amazon bestselling debut novel *Leave Well Alone*, I am preparing for the launch of my second novel *Don't Come Looking*. Join my online book launch party at 5.00pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April via Facebook Live: @AJCampbellauthor – a fun half-hour full of prizes and surprises, a peek behind the scenes, and an author questions and answers session.

A J Campbell







It was wonderful to welcome all the children back to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March and the excitement of being back and finally being able to resume school-based learning and interact with friends was certainly evident. A huge well-done must go, of course, to the parents and carers, as well as the school staff for their fantastic work during this home learning period. For the second half of the Spring term, classes started new learning themes, with big questions to help them along their learning journey. Eagle Owl Class explored the question 'Are climbers good for mountains?'. They took on the roles of members of the mountain community who each had a different perspective on whether more climbers should be encouraged to visit the mountain or not. Hawk Owl Class created their very own Egyptian Museum exhibits and linked it to their dinosaur work; Barn Owl Class put together a fossil museum. Barn Owl's big question was 'Should we bring back dinosaurs?'; Snowy Owl Class took on the role of chefs this term and opened up a pizza parlour with their delicious homemade pizzas.

To celebrate World Book Day at the beginning of March, we held a Masked Reader challenge. Each day, throughout the week, a new masked reader was launched on our school website, with the identities finally revealed during our last virtual assembly



before returning to school. The staff had lots of fun making their videos and I know everyone loved watching them and it certainly promoted our love of reading. We are hoping it will become an annual event!

If you are interested in being part of our school community, we are seeking two governors to join our board. Whilst we would welcome applications from volunteers with finance and HR experience, we encourage applications from anyone keen, committed and willing to learn. For details please see our website.

Marnie Tait  
Deputy Headteacher  
Tel: 813370

Email: [admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk)



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home)

Everything is looking brighter now and I am really pleased to report that, all being well, we should be able to meet up again at the end of June. Prior to June, we are planning some Zoom coffee mornings so please look out for an invitation to join in with one of them. They will be limited to approximately 20 members per session so will be arranged on a first come, first served basis. As you know, our usual monthly meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (during normal times) but we hope to have a relaxed and informal meeting on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June** at 1.30pm in St John's Church Hall with tea, coffee and cakes. We can catch up with one another and make plans for the future, including new groups and trips. We can also hopefully look forward to various events:

- 15<sup>th</sup> July *The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show*, Alan Haines
- 19<sup>th</sup> August *Everything Stops For Tea*, Eve Regelous (to be confirmed)
- 16<sup>th</sup> September *How to do everything and be happy*, Peter Jones
- 21<sup>st</sup> October AGM followed by *The History of Chocolate and the Beliefs and Myths Surrounding it* Tony Diamond
- 18<sup>th</sup> November *A Female In Fleet Street*, Deborah Brady

You should have received an email or letter from me regarding renewal of your membership but if not please ring or email me via the website. The new membership period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. The fee this year has been reduced to £12 because of the disruption caused by Covid. I wish you all a very happy and hopefully warm Easter break.

Lynda Webb  
Membership Secretary  
Tel: 813102

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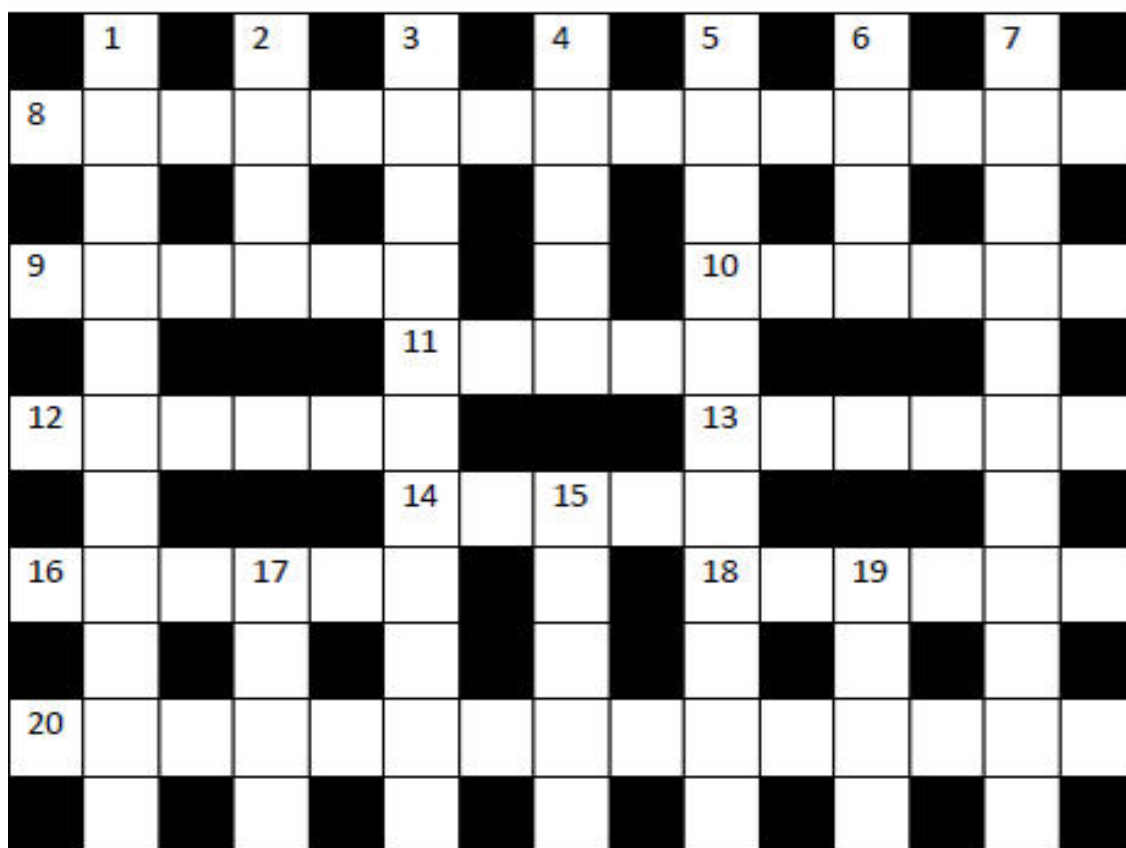
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## FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 13

### ACROSS

- 8 and 17d Famous quote from '66 world cup (4,5,3,3,4)
- 9 Very small living area (6)
- 10 And yet, nevertheless, despite (6)
- 11 Funnily enough! (5)
- 12 Afternoon brewer's little helper (6)
- 13 Summer house (6)
- 14 Car goes wandering (5)
- 16 Half an American state (6)
- 18 Verbally abusive, be rude (6)
- 20 England manager (6,9)

### DOWN

- 1 Sandwich filling of dairy food and lettuce (6,5)
- 2 All the better to see you with (4)
- 3 Snappy pastime (11)
- 4 Sounds like bakers have to (5)
- 5 The finer details (5,6)
- 6 Brand of fuel from standard oil initially (4)
- 7 Desirability, entitlement, fit (11)
- 15 Deadly juice of a snake (5)
- 17 see 8a.
- 19 Sing a notice (4)

### ADDRESSES FROM FICTION QUIZ

Which fictional characters lived at these addresses?

1. 221B Baker Street, London
2. 17 Cherry Tree Lane, London
3. 28 Ramsey Street, Erinsborough
4. Longbourn, Hertfordshire
5. 19 Riverbank
6. 742 Evergreen Terrace, Springfield
7. 62 West Wallaby Street, Wigan
8. 186 Fleet Street, London
9. Thornfield Hall
10. 23 Railway Cuttings, East Cheam
11. 4 Privet Drive, Little Whinging
12. 32 Windsor Gardens, London
13. Bag End, Bagshot Row
14. Puddleby-on-the-Marsh, Shropshire
15. 27A Wimpole Street, London
16. 0001 Cemetery Lane
17. Southfork Ranch, Texas
18. 7 Eccles Street, Dublin
19. 112 ½ Beacon Street, Boston
20. 301 Cobblestone Way, Bedrock
21. 26 Oil Drum Lane, Shepherd's Bush
22. Saffron Hill, Holborn, London
23. 56B Whitehaven Mansions, London
24. Manderley, Cornwall
25. Wisteria Lane

*There is one deliberate error in this quiz*

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 29



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## THE STANSTED IN BLOOM GROUP

### High Lane Junction Project

Liz Lake Associates have designed and started to implement some low maintenance seasonal planting to improve the character of the junction and ensure there is an attractive backdrop to the knight sign throughout the year. Inspired by the red and yellow of the Mountfitchet crest there will be a vibrancy to the winter planting which is missing at present. In summer the reds and yellows will give way to fresh greens and purples with plenty of flowers for wildlife. It will take some time for the planting to become established and you can appreciate its full impact, but we are confident it will become an exciting, memorable and well-loved entrance to the village all year round. The total cost of the project including the restoration work in the Knight sign and the planting and landscaping is in the region of £3,000. This is being funded by generous donations from Sworders Auction House, a National Lottery grant given to the Parish Council, District Councillor Sell's ward fund, County Councillors Gooding's Locality fund plus a small number of donations from residents including one lady whose father, Harold Sanders, designed the original Knight Signs.



### Stansted in Bloom Competition

The well-established Stansted in Bloom garden competition will be going ahead as usual. The closing date for entries is **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June** and the judging day is **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July**. Look out for details of how to enter in the next edition of The Link.

### Anglia in Bloom

The organisers of Anglia in Bloom have decided to run a virtual campaign this year. There are 10 different categories we can enter. For each category we enter we are allowed to submit five photographs and provide a description of no more than 50 words. We plan to submit entries in all categories.

Trevor Lloyd  
Tel: 07739 428352

## GARDEN WASTE AMENITY SKIPS

The skips resume in Lower Street car park on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 12.30pm-4.30pm, and there-after every two weeks, on the weekend following the black bin collection.



## REDUNDANCY HELP FROM UTTLESFORD FRONTLINE

[www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk)

Job loss through redundancy confronts many of us in these uncertain times; even if it comes as no surprise, its impact cannot be underestimated. There are often severe financial consequences, an inevitable blow to self-esteem and of course the million-dollar question: what next? Redundancy is an extremely complex issue, and while employers have a legal obligation to follow correct procedures, it is always advisable to make sure you fully understand all the ins and outs of what is happening and are satisfied that your employer is fully compliant with the law. For instance, if you decide to accept an offer of 'suitable alternative employment' within your organisation, your employer is obliged to offer you a four-week trial period without affecting any of your statutory rights. If there is a suitable alternative job which is not offered to you, then this could be classed as unfair dismissal by an employment tribunal.

If you are unclear about the redundancy procedure, then trusted organisations such as Citizens Advice can help. They can also advise on the inevitable money problems that accompany redundancy, including how to handle debt problems, and identifying and applying for available benefits. Finding new employment is a challenge for anyone facing redundancy; today's jobs market is highly competitive and you may feel you lack the necessary skills for success. Practical help with job search, CV writing, application letters and interview techniques are offered free of charge by *The Transition Project* in Saffron Walden and the new Employment Support Scheme from the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford. Their volunteers are trained in negotiating the complexities of the job-seeking market. Details about all these services are instantly accessible from Frontline, a comprehensive online library of local resources giving you direct access to specialist organisations which provide help with many of life's problems - in most cases with the opportunity to self-refer. We have compiled a seven page fact sheet with full contact details, which is downloadable from our website.

Janet Elsey  
Tel: 01799 618846  
Email: [help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk)

## STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next Zoom meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April** at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. This powerful and significant story deals with the flight of refugees from Aleppo in Syria to Europe during the Syrian Civil War. While a work of fiction, it is based on the author's experience over two summers volunteering in Athens at a refugee centre, so I am sure it will be a very moving read with lots to discuss. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us, a warm welcome will await.



Anne Watson  
Tel: 898693  
Email: [stanstediswellread@gmail.com](mailto:stanstediswellread@gmail.com)





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## IN MEMORIAM

Barry Gerber

28<sup>th</sup> September 1940-31<sup>st</sup> March 2020



Last March Barry Philip Gerber found his wings and lost his life to Covid. A year on, our hearts remain broken but our memories of you live on. You were liked by everyone who knew you and your smile brightened up so many lives. You will forever be remembered for walking Molly around the green, chatting with neighbours, working hard throughout your life and bringing joy to others. We will never forget you. Love Ann, Stephen, Mark, Julie, Dawn and Robert.

Pops was the best grandad and great grandad to me and my children. He taught me to work hard, pay my bills and not listen to what anyone else thinks. He made us laugh, he supported us with whatever we needed. We are truly lost without you and still stand at the window waiting for you to come for a cup of tea. Finley hopes the angels in heaven are looking after you and that you have Ellie to keep you company. We love you so much, Kirsty and Boys x x x x

Kirsty Pope

## BUILDING DREAMS

Many are choosing to extend their property rather than move house. Carrying out any building work to the home is disruptive and can be traumatic. Based on personal experience, this is an idea of the roller coaster journey in prospect when striving to achieve the house of your dreams:

**Design:** Arguably the most enjoyable part of the process; committing all your ideas and plans to paper. There is sometimes a little disappointment at this stage too, as objections from neighbours/planning department or budget constraints can lead to having to make compromises.

**Reality:** As soon as the builders arrive to start the project, taking over your garden, drive and street with all the necessary tools and equipment, the reality of what you have let

yourself in for kicks in as you scurry around making the workers their third brew of the day – and it is not even lunch time.

**Excitement:** Once you get over the initial shock the excitement takes over as the walls of your new extension go up surprisingly fast. In no time at all the roof is going on and at last you can see your dream actually taking shape.

**Angst:** Things get more difficult when the old wall adjoining the new extension is knocked through and the whole house is covered in dust, and stays cloaked in the stuff until the build is finished. A seemingly endless procession of tradespeople traipse through your home, leaving you and your family camped out in one room with just a microwave, kettle, toaster and washing up bowl, if the kitchen is being extended. However, you are still expected to maintain a constant supply of hot drinks!

**Motivation:** Once the stream of tradespeople dwindles to a trickle you can see light at the end of the tunnel and are motivated to look beyond your one-room confinement, and dig out the list of items you still need to buy for your newly created space.

**Snagging List:** At last the day comes when the tradespeople finally leave and move onto their next job. The bright, new extension looks fantastic and you sigh with relief thinking it is all over; that would be a mistake. Not until you have started to use your new space do you notice the things that are missing, unfinished or leak. Trying to get the tradespeople to return and address these issues is a herculean task that can take weeks, months or even years.

To everyone who may be thinking about major renovations to their home, the very best of luck!

Loki

## COVID LOCKDOWN PASTIME

I have taken advantage of the three Covid lockdowns to submerge myself in painting abstract artwork.



I started by creating these unusual items for family and friends as gifts; nowadays, however, I am receiving specific requests for pictures from people and even colour-coordinated commissions to match colour schemes of their rooms. Do contact me if you would be interested in learning more.

Christine Henderson  
Stansted Resident  
Tel: 07782 106530



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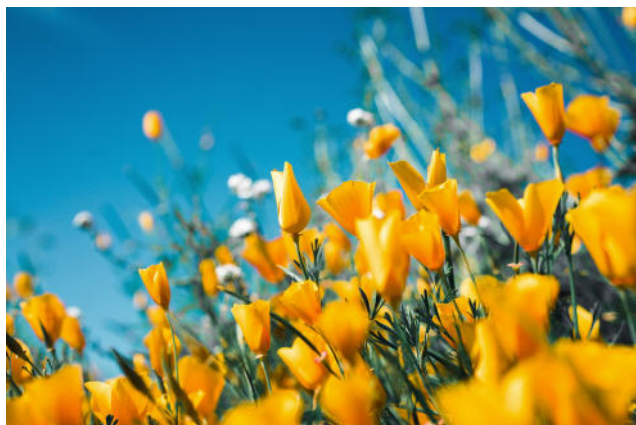
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City & Guilds APPROVED CENTRE





We have been out in full force with the trusty team of volunteers working hard to get the allotment in shape for what I hope will be the best year yet. As many of you know, we supply other charities in the village with fresh produce to those that need it most. This month we have launched our very first *Grow Your Own* pilot. This is something we are very proud of; it has been so much fun to be a part of. Together with the Spangles family hub, we hosted an online workshop supporting families with fun activities for children under the age of five with the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and a workshop to help them better understand how to grow your own edible garden. We want to send out a huge thank you to all the participants and we hope you have enjoyed the journey. We greatly look forward to seeing what you grow.



I am also grateful because we have been overwhelmed with people within our community reaching out and getting in touch to volunteer; it looks as if I will not have to work alone ever again! This makes my heart happy and my load lighter. What more can a woman ask for. Having said that we are still looking for some key people to come aboard. If you have any fundraising skills or analytical business skills, we would love to hear from you; please sign up at our website. We have also recently launched our very own newsletter, so please go and sign up today to get handy top tips for the garden and your dose of mental health gardening tips. Go to our blog on the website to find out more.



Keiran Olivier  
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

### Across

8. They think it's all ... 9. Bedsit 10. Though 11. Oddly  
12. Teabag 13. Gazebo 14. Rover 16. Dakota  
18. Insult 20. Gareth Southgate

### Down

1. Cheese salad 2. Eyes 3. Photography 4. Knead  
5. Nitty gritty 6. Esso 7. Eligibility 15. Venom  
17. ....over 19. Sign

It does not seem possible that it is a year since the Club held its last meeting; hopes were that things would be back to normal by June, then in October those hopes were dashed as this nasty pandemic took hold again. Our gardens became a place of refuge, allowing gardeners more time to enjoy their hobby and introducing many non-gardeners to the joys of growing their own vegetables and flowers. The lockdowns therefore became more bearable as pottering around and staycations in the garden became the norm. Now with spring upon us, it is time to plan ahead so that a fruitful and colourful garden can be enjoyed later this year. Local garden centres are open so you can obtain seeds, bulbs and plants. Some of the supermarkets and DIY stores are stocking a selection of ready-grown plants. Although the weather can be a bit temperamental, enjoy the lengthening days and warmer temperatures. Remember: *March Winds and April Showers bring forth May Flowers!* As soon as we have any information regarding holding meetings at the Day Centre again, we will let you know; the biggest problem at the moment is social distancing in the hall but as soon as things improve it will be super to welcome everyone to our meetings again.

Maralyn Harris  
Chairman  
Tel: 07919 478144

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draw:

£100	No 232	E Butcher
£ 50	No 265	Margaret Hill
£ 25	No 281	Elizabeth Jennings

The draw for April will be held on **25<sup>th</sup> April** either in St John's Church or from my home, in the presence of the online congregation, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each 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 £2,500 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

## UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**Ugley Village Hall**

**10.00am-12 noon**



***We hope to have all the stalls back this month if Government regulations permit.***

*If you would like to go on our email list to be updated on the current situation, contact Susan Bone on ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com or telephone 01279 814052*



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This month begins with the Christian celebration of the two central commemorations of the church's faith: Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Good Friday finds us gathered around the cross of Jesus Christ. Christ suffers extreme physical, mental and spiritual pain and eventually dies on the cross. He bears costly witness in his own being to how deeply God in love suffers with each one of us and with everyone's experience of suffering and death. This last year we have all participated in the physical, emotional, economic and spiritual distress of the pandemic. Its scars run deep in some of us and will continue to do so. It will take us time to recover. Of course, the pandemic has not put a hold on suffering from other causes: sickness and bereavement, strife and unrest, famine and disaster. The Good Friday story of the suffering Christ invites us to come to the cross at any time and allow Christ to minister to us with divine love.

Easter Sunday sees us celebrating the victory of God's suffering love as we joyfully proclaim with alleluias (Praise the Lord) the mystery of the resurrection of Christ: He is risen! Easter is also the rebirth of hope. After all we have endured this past year, we need the gifts of love and hope. Love to heal us in our suffering and sorrow. Hope to sustain us through what we now trust will be a one-way journey out of the worst of the pandemic. Love and hope renewed within us to encourage us to reach out to others in all their suffering, however it is caused. This is the ministry of the crucified and risen Christ to us. On a personal note, this is the last message I shall write in The Link as I move on later this year into retirement from Stansted and the other communities where I minister locally. It has been a joy to minister to you through The Link and, for one final time, I pray that God will bless you all with the love that lies at the heart of our Easter story.



Roy Fowler  
Minister, Stansted Free Church



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[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

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Email: [minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

#### Sunday worship in the church

With case numbers falling rapidly we are hoping to resume worship in the church at Easter, but please see our website for updates. Zoom services will continue on Sundays at 10.30am for the foreseeable future. For details please contact me.

The church hall is available for regular and one-off bookings of permitted activities which fall within the Government's guidelines. Please contact me for further information.



Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

### From St John's Registers

#### February

##### Funeral

8<sup>th</sup> Kerry Peacock, age 40 - at St John's followed by cremation at Cam Valley



**Contact:** Howard and Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: [stanstedfamily@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedfamily@gmail.com)

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

We continue to meet on Tuesday evenings and Sundays, offering a combination of modern worship music, Bible-based talks/discussion and prayer, using either in-person or online meetings (or a combination of both), in accordance with Government guidance at the time. As restrictions are subject to both local and national changes, at relatively short notice, please email or ring us for the latest updates on what is running and how best to access it.

If you would like more information about how to find recommended other online church services which you can access anytime, or the Alpha Course online, please just contact us. We are also happy to receive prayer-requests at any time. 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?



Ros and Howard Page





**All enquiries** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
**Including Church** St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
**Hall bookings** Tel: 815243 (with answerphone)  
 Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com  
 Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btck.co.uk

**Priest-in-Charge** Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather  
 (from 13<sup>th</sup> April)  
 Tel: 812203  
 Email:

**Assistant Curate** Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145  
 Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

**Pastoral Assistant** Kathryn West Tel: 816293  
 Email: kewest@btinternet.com

**Director of Music** Anne Brooks  
 Email: annebrooks22@yahoo.co.uk

### Sunday Services

At the time of writing, St John's Church is closed for congregational worship, although our Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion service will be broadcast from the church through Zoom. We are hopeful that it will be possible to re-open the church for worship from Palm Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Please check our website for details. Our new Priest-in-Charge, Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather will be inducted and licensed on 13<sup>th</sup> April, and will take his first service on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Kathy West



## CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

The Salvation Army group has been unable to meet since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, but we are still here! We have still been involved with the community during this time and keeping in touch via doorstep visits, post, email and telephone and hope, over the coming months, to be able to reopen in line with government guidelines. We do not expect CAMEO to restart until July but will be sure to get any notice out there as soon as possible. In the meantime, here is the basic projection over the coming months and we would be happy to hear from you if you would like more information:

**29<sup>th</sup> March:** Need someone to talk to? Pastoral visits can take place outdoors

**12<sup>th</sup> April:** Paper sales will restart in Stortford town centre on Thursday mornings

**17<sup>th</sup> May:** [subject to review] Pastoral visits could take place indoors

**27<sup>th</sup> June:** Proposed date for Sunday Worship in Markwell Pavilion at 10.30am

We hope to see you soon.



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

## ROMAN CATHOLIC

### St Therese of Lisieu

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

www.sttheresasstansted.org

**Priest** Father Lee Bennett  
 Tel: 814349  
 Email: frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org

**Parish Deacon** Rev'd Deacon Des Connors  
 Tel: 07748 464101  
 Email: desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

### Masses

Saturday 5.00pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass  
 Sunday 8.30am and 10.00am Mass  
 9.15am Confessions  
 12.00pm \*Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form)  
 (\*First Sunday of every month)  
 Monday 9.00am Confessions 9.30am Mass  
 Tuesday 7.15am Confessions  
 8.00pm Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form)  
 Wednesday Noon Confessions 12.30pm Mass  
 Thursday/Friday 9.00am Confessions 9.30am Mass

**Baptism** By appointment

We continue to offer mass every day; details can be found above or on our website, where you can also find details of our Easter Masses. Please note that booking is required for some masses. Visit our website and Facebook page for regular updates and our weekly newsletter:  
 www.facebook.com/StTheresaStansted.



Clair Rava  
 Parish Administrator  
 Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

## THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill

Stansted CM24 8AE

www.stansted.quakermeeting.org

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

Although the Quaker Meeting House is still closed, Stansted Quakers are continuing to hold a Meeting for Worship each Sunday, by each being silent at the same time in our own homes. We have a strong sense of all worshipping together by doing this. Afterwards, we have our coffee or tea and a biscuit and email any ministry, thoughts or news to each other.



Jane Mitchell

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## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - THATCHED BUILDINGS

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings. Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive, and sustainable; now it seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw finial. These are called straw finials. Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they are more likely chosen by the customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied than ever. I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes. Do keep looking up!

Ken McDonald, Secretary Tel: 813226



The flying pig in Pound Lane, Ugley



The fox and hare on Church Cottage, Brent Pelham



The cow on the barn of the Red Cow Pub, Chrishall



The galloping horse near Beslyns, Great Bardfield



The eagle has landed in Aythorpe Roding



The 16th century Thatchers Pub, Hatfield Heath



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## THE BENCH EFFECT

Oft times I awake to the leaded weight of anxiety gnawing in my gut like some predatory carnivores have encamped within (rest assured that this article will get sunnier as it progresses). The dark grey clouds of my depression descend wraith-like upon my weary mind and I hear the mournful sirens singing, beckoning me back to bed. Go on, they chant, shut the world away. But wait, a tendril of sunlight breaks through my window and I steel myself for the conflict between surrender to the bed or head to the bench. So at Full Time it is Bed nil, Bench one! As I sit on a pretty embroidered mat a lovely lady made for me, I feel the darkness dissipate. Innumerable smiles, 37 hellos, a beep and more waves than a storm-tossed ocean and my mental Ying and Yang has been restored to normal plus parameters. A veritable flush of dopamine courses through my noggin as I smile at all the lovely village folk. I am renewed!

I had my Covid jab recently and was very anxious about it. I hate needles (the search for someone who likes them continues apace but to no avail) and I was worried about possible side effects. But no, once the bench effect kicked in, I was surrounded by the warm reassurances of my friends and village fam. Don, the legendary Postie, suggested an injection of vodka, everyone congratulated me and lo the anxiety decamped heading for the next bus home. The Stansted surgery were most efficient and the charming receptionist recognised me from my articles. 'Twas a wholesome and euphoric moment, a rite of passage achieved. So my Stansted brethren, put the black dog back in its kennel, embrace the sunshine and breathe, bathing in the luxuriant love of our happy village.

Kris



## RECYCLE INK, STAMPS AND TOOTHBRUSHES



We are still collecting original (not remanufactured or own brand) ink cartridges, postage stamps, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag). If the churches where our collecting boxes are situated are closed, you can leave items in the box outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. **Please note that we do not take laser toner cartridges.** Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

Email: [recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

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

Since my article in the March issue of The Link, the news on coronavirus is very much better; vaccinations have gone exceptionally well and if we all continue to be careful things should continue to improve. This makes it more likely that we will be able to go ahead and hold our annual fête on Bank Holiday **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August**. Time flies fast so we will shortly have to begin preparations, for which we will need volunteers. This year of the pandemic has seen people enjoying volunteering, even though they have never considered doing so before. Please consider helping out with the windmill, not only for the fête but also for our open days. Do get in touch with me if you are interested. Mean-time, continue to stay safe and well.



Molly Clark  
Co-trustee  
Tel: 816768



## ONLINE ALPHA COURSE



**Taster Sessions are now available** for Stansted's first *online* Alpha Course. Alpha runs in the UK and across the world, as well as in Stansted, but the pandemic forced the Alpha Course to move online for the first time in 2020, making it more accessible and dramatically increasing the numbers of people participating. We are currently taking bookings for places on Alpha Taster Sessions on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am-11.30am or 7.45pm-9.15pm**. More taster sessions may be added later at different times. If you enjoy the taster and want to continue with the 10-week course, you can choose between weekly daytime or evening sessions. Access is by phone, computer or tablet, using the free Zoom app (if you do not have it, we can help).

The Alpha Course is an internationally-recognised series of sessions exploring aspects of everyday life and the Christian faith. It is your opportunity to cut through negative headlines and stereotypes, and to decide for yourself what you believe. Each session focuses on a different question and is designed to encourage a conversation where people of any faith or none can express their own views and/or listen to others' points of view. It is aimed at those who would not consider themselves Christians and are not connected to a church, as well as those who might attend church sometimes but would like to know more. Alpha is also an opportunity for you to ask your own questions. More information can be found at [www.alpha.org](http://www.alpha.org). Like each session in the main course, the taster includes a short film followed by a discussion. All sessions are free, but please contact us to book your preferred session, daytime or evening, as soon as possible and by 1<sup>st</sup> April at the latest.



Howard and Ros Page  
Stansted Family Church  
Tel: 810813  
Email: [stanstedfamily@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedfamily@gmail.com)



# Stansted Network

## NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2021

#### WHY IS A PLAN NEEDED

A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is a means of enabling residents to participate in and contribute towards improving the social, economic and cultural well-being of their local area.

It is part of the Government's approach to planning that aims to give local people more say about future development in their area. Deciding where any future development should go is a primary part of any NDP, but it is also about much more than that.

It allows the Plan Area to be considered holistically to ensure that development is sustainable in the future and, if adopted, the Plan will carry considerable weight when discussing Stansted with other authorities.



*Access for young people to sports pitches and play areas is just one area dealt with in the Plan.*

#### WHAT ISSUES DOES THE PLAN COVER?

The plan covers a range of areas. Below we name a few of these but by no means all of them:

- What is Stansted - a Village or a Town?
- Provision for health and well-being
- Highways issues (we have lots of these)
- The local economy including our shops and businesses
- Green infrastructure - landscape, views, footpaths
- Provision for sports - what do we need?
- Our Under-18's - what can we offer you?
- Housing - do we take more, and if so where?

The draft Plan contains 12 chapters on specific issues and we will be seeking your feedback to questions relating to each of them.

#### WHY ARE WE BEING CONSULTED?

Opinions shape the plan. Stansted belongs to all of us, not just to the group of volunteers compiling the document. That's why we are seeking to engage as many residents as possible to ensure we hear a broad range of views that reflect the entire community.

Consultation is also a regulatory requirement. It is not only desirable but also necessary to inform the decision makers. Further consultation will take place once the draft Plan is finalised, prior to a referendum being held.

#### HOW CAN WE LEARN ABOUT THE PLAN?

- Hard copies of documents will be available from our office and community areas around the village. You will also be able to request copies via email or telephone.
- Videos on Facebook and our website will highlight key issues for each of the 12 consultation documents
- Our weekly newsletter will provide regular updates throughout the consultation
- Short online surveys seeking feedback on key aspects
- Door-to-door leaflet drops
- Direct face-to-face engagement in community settings

Whether it be online surveys, informative videos or community events, school projects, workshops or pop-up stalls, the Council will endeavour to seek broad dialogue across the community.

#### WHAT IS THE TIMETABLE?

The aim is to start the consultation in April 2021 seeking feedback on one of the 12 topics each week. The consultation kicks off online with a short survey seeking your view on a simple question - is Stansted a town or a village?



## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CONSULTATION?

Once the consultation stage has been completed, a draft plan will be submitted to the local planning authority. Before they make a decision on whether to approve the plan, it needs to be assessed by an independent examiner, who seeks to ensure it meets a number of basic qualifying criteria - for example if the plan enhances the preservation of an area's character or appearance.

Once the plan has the approval of the local planning authority and the independent examiner, there will be a referendum. This will allow residents the opportunity to approve the adoption of the plan.

## ELECTIONS 2021

You can participate in three elections next month with chances to vote at parish and at county level, as well as the opportunity to select the next Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. Voting day for all three elections is Thursday May 6, with a deadline for postal voting of 5pm that day.

If you wish to either stand or vote in the elections there are some key dates to keep in mind this April:

- April 1** Poll Cards sent to all households
- April 8** Deadline nomination papers
- April 19** Deadline Voter Registrations - students can register to vote at home and university but can only vote once
- April 20** Amend/Cancel postal votes
- April 27** Proxy Vote deadline



## WHO CAN I VOTE FOR?

You can help select candidates for a couple of vacancies at the Parish Council. Both the north and south electoral wards of the village have a councillor position that needs filling. Successful candidates will represent their community on the Parish Council and help it shape planning decisions, define bye-laws, and oversee local spending.

## COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

There are 75 councillors elected to Essex County Council, where decisions are made on schools, roads, and social care, among other responsibilities. Your vote will decide who represents the Stansted Division.

The County Council also hosts the Essex Youth Assembly. Elections are held every two years. In 2019, almost 25,000 young people voted. Voting for the Assembly will take place from April 12-30, with countywide declaration events revealing the newly elected members to be held on May 10. A previously elected representative for Uttlesford was George Braeckman, now on the Stansted Youth Council (see page 2).

## POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners are elected every four years. The last run-off was in May 2016 and the Covid crisis has postponed voting by a year. On May 6 you can choose the next Commissioner to act as the voice of the people, holding the police and fire services to account in their efforts, for example in the case of the police, to reduce crime.

## CAN I VOTE?

First you must be over 18. Next make sure you are on the electoral roll. If you are 16+ and have a national insurance number, apply at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). If you are without a poll card by Friday 9 April 2021, this may mean you are unregistered.

Check especially if you have moved house recently, and also if you have moved within an election district. You can do so by visiting the 'registering to vote' page at GOV.UK or by calling 01799 510510. A letter will confirm your registration or request further details to put you on the roll.

Young people can vote in the Youth Assembly Elections by using a ballot paper at participatory schools or youth clubs.

## ANONYMOUS REGISTRATION

People who may be at risk of danger if their name and address were to appear in the electoral register have the option of signing-up anonymously with the Electoral Commission, which lasts a year.

## POSTAL VOTES

If you cannot get to the polling station on the day of an election you can vote by post. Postal voting is open to anyone so long as their name appears on the electoral roll. Applications must be received by 5pm on Tuesday, April 20.

## PROXY VOTES

You can also request a proxy vote if you want someone to vote on your behalf because you can't get to a polling station. Proxy voting is restricted to certain categories of people. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, 27 April at 5pm.

## POLLING STATION

The public library at the Mountfitchet Exchange will serve as one of the polling stations for the village on May 6. Voting booths are open 7am-10pm.

## DEADLINES FOR CANDIDATES

Nomination papers to enter the election races for the posts of Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Essex County Councillor, and Parish Councillor need to be submitted by April 8.

Full details of candidate criteria can be found at [uttlesford.gov.uk/standingforelections](http://uttlesford.gov.uk/standingforelections)

## UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Cllr Ayub Khan writes:

It would be remiss for me to start my update without mentioning the magnificent work of Stansted Surgery to administer the COVID 19 vaccine to Stansted and surrounding area residents. The staff and volunteers have worked so hard and we applaud them for their efforts.

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) has now agreed the budget for 2021/22. Key headlines are:

- Funding for projects across Uttlesford to address the climate emergency
- Funding to support Business for post COVID recovery
- Funding for sports facilities in the largest settlements across Uttlesford

In addition, UDC has agreed a 3% increase in council tax for the forthcoming year. This represents an increase of £5 on a Band D property. Government funding for Local Government has reduced over the last few years. UDC, like other local authorities, needs to find ways to close the funding gap to ensure essential services are maintained.



*Stansted Surgery is to be congratulated on the efficient delivery of Covid-19 inoculations*

When it comes to the leadership of UDC by Residents for Uttlesford (R4U), there are some important issues to share with you. Cllr Alan Dean touched on these in his article for the February edition of the Link.

Over the last few months, we have witnessed an external auditor refusing to sign off the annual accounts because of a police investigation into one or more councillors.

To add to our concerns, at the Council meeting on the 8th December 2020, R4U Councillors voted down a motion put forward by Cllr Caton to uphold the code of conduct and the Nolan principles, which are the basis of ethical standards in public life. That's since been corrected.

More controversially, the majority proceeded to invest £38m in a company closely associated with the arms industry and, according to Oxfam, with the humanitarian tragedy in Yemen. All Stansted's district councillors voted against this investment. This might have been avoided if the Council had established an ethical investment policy, something that Cllr Sell, and I, as members of the Investment Board, have been calling for since 2019.

You may ask the reason why I am sharing this information with you. Well, to have good public services we need people in power who have integrity and who demonstrate good ethical leadership.

I, along with my colleagues, will continue to challenge poor leadership, standing up for what we think is right.





## PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

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 Trainee Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick  
 Committee Support Asst Laila Azure-Marxen  
 Communications Asst Dan Schlanker  
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 Mon-Fri 9.00am-4.00pm, Wed 9.00am-1.00pm  
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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Lockdown 3 rules have meant meetings are held virtually, rather than in person. Despite this restriction, the Council continues to work through its full diary of business. Up and coming meetings are listed below:

- **April 7** - Full Council
- **April 12** - Annual Council
- **April 21** - Open Spaces
- **April 28** - Full Council

Agendas are published at [www.stansted.net](http://www.stansted.net). Click on the Meetings tab and then on Agendas. Video of Full Council meetings are published on the Council's Facebook page.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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## POLICE

PCSO Nikki Morris  
 tel: 101(non-emergency)  
 email: [nikki.morris@essex.police.uk](mailto:nikki.morris@essex.police.uk)  
 The Community Policing Team has its own email address which is monitored daily:  
[braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk)

## LIBRARIES

Step 2 of the Government's easing of lockdown restrictions schedules for libraries to open, but no sooner than April 12. The library is based in the Mountfitchet Exchange. Times subject to change.

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9.00am - 1.00pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2.00pm - 5.00pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2.00pm - 6.00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.30am - 5.00pm</b>

## ROAD OUT OF LOCKDOWN - CABINET OFFICE

Step 2 of the government's plan to ease out of nationwide lockdown restrictions begins on Monday April 12. Non-essential shops will be permitted to open, as will drive-in cinemas, campsites and cottages. Restaurants, cafes and bars may serve outdoor food. Groups of 30 at funerals and 15 at weddings. Indoor gyms may open; while 2m social-distancing remains.

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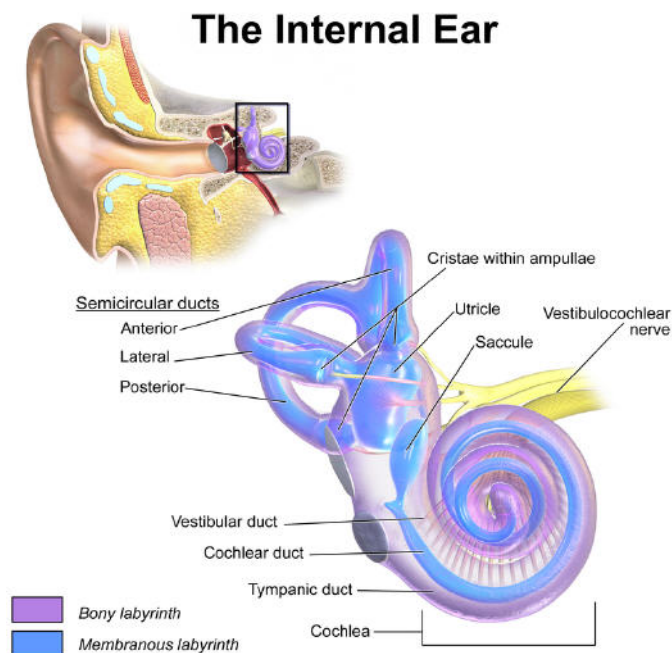
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### The balance organs or vestibular system

The prime job of these is to tell us which way is up and which way we are going. There are two distinct parts of the vestibular system: the semi-circular canals and the otolith organs. The first detects head movements as they are occurring, the second where the head is in space when it has stopped moving and also detects linear motion and acceleration or deceleration. The eardrum is part of the inner ear and all signals from the balance organs and the eardrum travel up the same cranial nerve to the brain for further processing.



It is the first system to develop within the womb; all other systems grow out of it and are inextricably interlinked. If you look at a letter on a wall and nod your head, the object should stay absolutely still, no matter how you waggle or shake your head, at whatever speed. This is a job of the semi-circular canals. If you look at that letter and tip your head in any direction and keep it there, the clarity of the vision should remain the same; it is quite possible it will improve or get worse. This is a job of the utricles. There are many signs of vestibular issues. Needing to hold onto the bannisters when going up or down stairs (like Donald Trump), finding heights challenging, wide stance, vertigo ... the list goes on. It is also a major driver of scoliosis (sideways curvature of the spine). Motion sickness may be a vestibular problem; it is certainly an integration problem of vision and movement. Finally, sound into an ear affects the vestibular system and can be a terrific rehabilitation tool; all part of the complex and fascinating world of applied neurology. If interested there is more detail in my blog.

Clare Harding  
Tel: 816430

## LOST FOR WORDS

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Are you, or someone you know, suffering from a bereavement? If you have suffered a loss, whether Covid-related or from any other cause (illness, old age, accidents and trauma, suicides, miscarriages and stillbirths) then please accept my condolences. You are not alone; this pandemic has brought to the forefront the fact that death and grief are universal. Please reach out to someone if you need to.

If you know someone who has suffered a loss, please check in on them. Ask them how they are **today** (because their grief will change by the day, sometimes by the hour). And please do not think about 'not wanting to hurt them' and avoid mentioning the name of the person they have lost; they are very aware that they have lost a friend, a partner, a child, a parent, a sibling. They are already hurting. You mentioning their name will not hurt them any further, but avoiding saying their name could do just that. In our current world where our human contact is limited, the awkward shunning of a recently bereaved person because of not knowing what to say is even more isolating. Heads up - no-one really knows what to say. Even saying "I don't know what to say, but I am here for you" shows that you care. Ask them about their loved one: "Tell me about ...". However, things such as "They are in a better place" or "You can always marry again/have more children" can be misconstrued, so are best avoided. Meet them where they are that day, be present, and listen. They may not want to talk much. They may be desperate to talk about them. You cannot fix what has happened, but you can be there so that they are not facing it alone. Take care, everyone.



Victoria  
Email: [victoria@victoriathecelebrant.com](mailto:victoria@victoriathecelebrant.com)



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### Stansted Hub keeps going throughout Third Lockdown

A reminder that as an essential healthcare provider, we are able to continue a Covid-safe service for NHS hearing aid help, cleaning and re-tubing. Appointments are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Stansted Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. For those who are housebound or shielding, a doorstep service will also be available. All appointments must be booked in advance; please call 01245 496347, text: 07950 406173 or email: [info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk](mailto:info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk). We also provide an information, advice and guidance service to people across Essex living with hearing loss, and this is currently being delivered from our Resource Centre in Chelmsford by telephone, video call, text message or email.

Susan Butler  
Service Coordinator  
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Fingers crossed that we are going to be open for visitors on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April**. Entry will be by ticket, available through our website from late March, and to season ticket holders and friends. Over the last few years our volunteers have been adding to the planting in the gardens to ensure there is colour in April, as well as the fresh greens of the grass and trees. We look forward to late flowering daffodils and tulips, which look fantastic set against the euphorbia in the Italian garden, and to seeing the blossom on the fruit trees and the flowering cherries. We hope visitors will also be able to see the stonemasons' progress restoring the balustrade around the lilypond. We will provide our usual excellent bacon, cheese or hummus butties, homemade cake and hot and cold drinks; we will have social distancing measures in place.



Volunteers have been working hard to make the gardens ready for visitors. There has been more dead-hedging; this is a great way to tidy away the branches and twigs, as it provides a habitat for bugs, a boundary (although it probably will not keep the deer out!) and does not add to greenhouse gas emissions, as it would if we had bonfires instead. March was a month for planting the first flower, herb and vegetable seeds and seed potatoes, plus transplanting cuttings and more pruning and tidying. It was also time for completing the work underway on the paths so visitors can get around. If you have not already done so, set the date in your diaries and find the details and the link to the ticketing arrangements on our website and Facebook page [www.facebook.com/thegardensofeastonlodge](https://www.facebook.com/thegardensofeastonlodge).

Jill Goldsmith  
Tel: 07947 183439



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

We are looking forward to the end of the Covid-19 restrictions; despite the good news, returning to the new normal seems frustratingly slow and we do not anticipate face-to-face meetings before early autumn. Our online activities are

continuing and our speaker programme this year has included excellent talks on subjects as diverse as the impact of Brexit on our trading arrangements and the Silk Road and a resurgent China's ambitions. All our talks are available on our YouTube channel and our future programme can be found on our website.

We were pleased with our recent virtual concert and the opportunity it offered to explore modern methods of promotion and raising money for charity. Our concert raised a surprising £14,000 for our charities. Our Club is now exploring ways to expand our newfound experience to promote more ambitious programmes of support in the future. All the indications are that recovery from the pandemic will be hard and that the support offered by Rotary will be much needed. To learn more or join us as a friend or member, please visit our website.



Peter Latham  
Tel: 881607

Email: [stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com](mailto:stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com)



## Nature Notes

### Two for Joy!

This morning in the garden there were two magpies strutting on the lawn and when you see two of these together it signifies joy. Other birds would not have viewed them joyously because the magpies will be raiding all their nests in the spring.



We, of course, are looking forward to the joy of spring. By the time you are reading this, that wonderful harbinger of spring, the bluebell, will be resplendent in our local woods. We are fortunate to have many footpaths in our area which pass by or through the woods and I recommend that you get out there, particularly on a warm, sunny day with little wind when the sweet scent of the bluebells will fill the air. This will be reassuring because it shows that they are our English bluebells as the intrusive Spanish bluebells have no scent at all. While you are out there, see if you can spot any oxlips, orchids or rare white bluebells.



Felix

(Photo by Carole Gray)



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## MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY

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To mark **World Book Day**, pupils at the school were given a suggested itinerary to help them to weave reading into their day, and families were given suggestions to create an entire day devoted to reading. Throughout the day, families were invited to take part in various activities, including:

- guessing who the reader behind the book was
- watching the online World Book Day *Share a Story* where celebrities helped to celebrate the event
- holding an indoor reading picnic, with blankets, snacks and their favourite books, poems or song lyrics to read aloud to each other, explaining why they liked it
- going for a walk and reading all the signs they could spot in their community
- completing word maths problems online
- decorating an item at home with a book theme, from paper plates and pebbles, to doors and wooden spoons
- reading a recipe and learning how to cook a family meal.



Deputy headteacher and English lead Teresa Avey said: "Families that read together succeed together and World Book Day is the perfect opportunity to promote and instil a love of reading by taking part in shared reading activities. Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator for success in life. Reading together can encourage a love of reading and it is fun for everyone." Marios Solomonides, headteacher, said: "It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils and their families embracing World Book Day, even though most of them are at home. When life is difficult, as it has been for so many people this year, escaping into the world of a good book can do wonders. This is the message we want to get across to our pupils." Children were also given book tokens to spend online.

Kelly Clark



## STANSTED EVENING WI

Our speaker on Zoom for our February meeting was Annamaria Dall'Anese, a Blue Badge guide for London. Our president had asked if she could link her talk to Valentine's Day. She put together a presentation called *Love in the paintings from the London Collections*, which she devised just for us.

From the National Gallery she spoke of Titian's *Bacchus and Ariadne*, the story of a god falling in love with a mortal then turning her into a constellation. She discussed *Venus and Mars* by Botticelli - the goddess of love and the god of war, which has been interpreted as the temptation of Adam by Eve. We saw *Venus and Cupid* by Bronzino, Van Eyck's *Arnolfini* portrait which depicts the love of money and the *Rokeya Venus* - a sensual painting by Velasquez of the naked Venus, completed when the painting of nudes was forbidden. Sadly, it was slashed with a meat chopper and damaged in 1914 by a suffragette. This led to all visitors' bags being checked when visiting the gallery. Next, she spoke of the *Great Bed of Ware* which is in the Victoria and Albert Museum (V & A), made around 1590 for an inn in Ware. The bed is three metres wide and reputedly accommodates four couples. Sir Toby Belch refers to it in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. There were many more paintings with interesting stories; we would love to have her as a guide when we can visit London again.

Some of us joined in with meetings at Manuden and a WI in the Bodmin area of Cornwall, called St Mary Bonaventures. The talk was entitled *Sex, secrets and salacious gossip in the Royal Court 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century*. The speaker Sarah Slater is a tour guide at Hampton Court; we enjoyed hearing her stories and the answers to questions we had probably often wondered about but never asked! Their WI will be joining us for our March Zoom meeting when we will be entertained by James Haddow, the taxi-driver poet. We keep in touch with one another but so look forward to being able to meet together again.



Judy Colliver  
Tel: 812470

## ADDRESSES FROM FICTION QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Sherlock Holmes
2. The Banks family (Mary Poppins)
3. The Kennedy family (since 1994) (Neighbours)
4. The Bennet family (Pride and Prejudice)
5. Victor Meldrew (One Foot in the Grave)
6. The Simpsons
7. Wallace and Grommit
8. Sweeney Todd (The Demon Barber)
9. Edward Rochester (Jane Eyre)
10. Tony Hancock
11. The Dursley family (Harry Potter)
12. The Brown family and Paddington Bear
13. Bilbo and then Frodo Baggins
14. Dr John Doolittle
15. Henry Higgins (Pygmalion & My Fair Lady)
16. The Addams family
17. The Ewing family (Dallas)
18. Leopold Bloom (Ulysses by James Joyce)
19. The *Cheers* bar
20. The Flintstones
21. Steptoe and Son, Albert and Harold
22. Fagin's den (Oliver Twist)
23. Hercule Poirot
24. Maxim de Winter (Rebecca)
25. Desperate Housewives

*Sweeney Todd is not fictional.*

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## RANDOM JOTTINGS

### MONDAY IS WASH DAY

The photo shows a few by-gones associated with wash day. On the right is a copper posser with a wooden handle for pumping up and down in the dolly tub. The washboard at the back will be familiar to many of you because it became an essential instrument for the skiffle group player with thimbles on his fingers.



The laundry tongs are there, of course, and bottom left is a pumice-stone, or pummy-stone as we called it. Next to that is a twisted wire implement into which you could wind a dishcloth. The floating bath thermometer would probably only be found in rather posh houses. They certainly did not use one when my wife and her sister were little and were dunked in the washing copper (a large metal tub set in a brick frame with a fire underneath) after the wash was finished. No sense in letting a drop of warm soapy water go to waste.

Tony Wellings



[www.stanstedmentalhealth.org](http://www.stanstedmentalhealth.org)

April is here and there is a real spring-like atmosphere. With the slow lifting of lockdown restrictions, children back at school, and more opportunities to get out, there is a palpable lifting of spirits. Please remember, however, that many still need to isolate or are facing restrictions. Others are struggling financially and facing other pressures. Be kind to others and mindful of the mental health of your neighbours, friends and work colleagues. If you, or anyone you know, needs a little support, *Let's Talk, Stansted!* are here to listen.

We have over 100 volunteers supporting the initiative, including trained Mental Health First Aiders, courtesy of West Essex MIND. We welcome more volunteers; please register on our website. We are continuing to run *Let's Talk on Zoom*, a weekly drop-in Zoom call where you can meet new faces, share your experiences and simply talk with others. Everyone is welcome, whatever your situation or state of mind. We are also launching new opportunities for people to meet, talk and share worries and burdens. A *Men's Shed* project is underway with a gardening theme and open to anyone who fancies some company outdoors. Just check the website for details of all the above and other initiatives. Or join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/letstalkstansted](https://www.facebook.com/groups/letstalkstansted).

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Of course, the pandemic has decimated the business in recent times. All customers with Covid-19 cancellations have been helped with full refunds or re-bookings and ongoing support and assistance. However, no income is being generated by the company while the travel bans remain in force.

Contact James Garret, [HNEmedia.co.uk](http://HNEmedia.co.uk) to join our next SBF Zoom meeting in April.



Iris Evans  
Treasurer



## STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

[www.shcc.hitscricket.com](http://www.shcc.hitscricket.com)

With luck the cricket season will begin on time. Outdoor sports are allowed from March 29<sup>th</sup> - hopefully. The junior season will therefore start with the first coaching session on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April** for those members over eight years. For the All Star players aged five to eight years, **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May** is the start of the English Cricket Board (ECB) eight week programme. These dates are flexible at the moment so please look at the *Hall News* for further information. It does look as though numbers will be limited at these sessions, therefore parents may be asked to sit in their cars or at least well away from the pavilion. We continue to wait for guidance from our governing body the ECB. The senior team will start with an away friendly at Nazeing on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April**. It looks as though the rules for hygiene, social distancing etc will be the same as last season. Hopefully this will all change on 21<sup>st</sup> June but the Club will follow guidance. Best case scenario is that we have a full season of cricket in the sunshine. It will happen in 2021 fingers crossed.



David Brown

Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663  
Email: [david1.r.brown@gmail.com](mailto:david1.r.brown@gmail.com)

## STANSTED BOWLS CLUB



This month I had hoped to be able to provide a bit more information for our members on how the 2021 season is likely to pan out, but we have not yet received updated advice for play from Bowls England. The Government guidance is that organised outdoor sports should be able to re-commence at the end of March, so it is looking good for the start of the season in April. There will, of course, be restrictions on the use of the Clubhouse and possibly on the number of players at any one time. I will be sending an email out as soon as we have clarity.

Meanwhile essential maintenance is continuing, albeit in a different way from normal. The start of season working party, where a large group of members gather over one or two days to get on top of all the outstanding jobs, will not be happening this year. Instead the smallest number of people possible are going through the 'to do' list one at a time to ensure that everything is done in a safe way. So far we have managed to spruce up the fences to protect them against the weather, repair the guttering downpipes and improve the edge of the green to prevent damage. The next major task is renewing the fencing at the Recreation Ground side, something that would be much easier with a larger band of helpers. Let us hope that by next year we will be back to normal. I am sure that all our members are looking forward to getting back on the green, especially if the weather is as good as it was in 2020. We are always happy to welcome new members; we have all the equipment needed and you would only need a pair of flat shoes to give it a go.

Jeanette Mansell  
Secretary

Tel: 07967 033924

Email: [jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com)



Stansted Tennis Club  
Founded 1889

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

### Club reopening

We are very pleased to announce that the Tennis Club is able to reopen on **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March**. This includes social tennis, for which members can book courts, Club sessions, tournaments and coaching. Guests are also very welcome (paying a £2 visitor fee).

### Joining the Club

The new membership year has just started. For details on joining the Tennis Club please go to our membership page on the STC website.

### Coaching

Lawn Tennis Association qualified coach Ollie Toms will recommence his popular coaching programme from Easter, including junior tournaments and tennis camps and group/individual coaching for juniors and adults. Please contact him on 07917 652014 or visit his website: [www.olliestennis.co.uk](http://www.olliestennis.co.uk) for more information.

### Ladies' night

The ladies only Club session, which is held on the second Monday of every month will restart on **12<sup>th</sup> April**, from 6.30pm.

Fiona Kelly

Publicity Officer

Tel: 07949 623484



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

[www.essexseniorleague.co.uk/club/stansted-football-club](http://www.essexseniorleague.co.uk/club/stansted-football-club)

The news that outdoor sport can resume from 29<sup>th</sup> March was greeted with great excitement at the Club. However it was dampened by a subsequent decision from the FA for the second season running to void the 20-21 league campaign. It is unfortunate but not unexpected as there are many leagues within the national pyramid where a large proportion of games were still to be played. A vote taken by all clubs in the Essex Senior League for competitive football to resume was unanimously agreed. The plan is to run two separate competitions throughout April and early May; one played on a Saturday with four groups of four teams playing each other once, with the top two going forward into a knockout draw. Our group of four includes Saffron Walden, Enfield and Sawbridgeworth Town. The first game is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> April, home to Saffron Walden.

The second cup competition will be played midweek and will have all sixteen teams in an open draw. All the above is of course dependent on the Government allowing supporters to attend and the sale of takeaway food and beverages; please keep an eye out on our social platforms for news if the above goes ahead. The over-45s are also looking to continue their season, however at the time of writing, it has not been confirmed how many teams wish to continue playing, but it is hoped they can kick off on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> April.



Tom Williams  
Secretary

Tel: 07921 403842





## DAISY MAY'S FARM

[www.daisymaysfarm.org](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org)

### Get your wellies out, we are Reopening!

Boy, were we delighted with that news or what?! As from **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April** we will be open again every day except Wednesday and Sundays; please check out our Facebook page for times and up to date information. At the moment there are babies everywhere on the farm including the cutest little chicks, utterly adorable lambs, teeny tiny bunnies, snuffly baby guinea pigs and as for the kid goats, well they are **so** gorgeous; who knows what else there will be by the time we open, as lots more are due any moment; busy times ahead for us. Come and see all the animals and feed some of them too. You can also stroll through the woodland walk, have fun doing some spring crafts, play on the swings and slide, check out if our resident troll is about and generally blow those lockdown cobwebs away. Spring is definitely on its way at Daisy May's.



However, things have been very tough for us, so if you would like to help us, we would be **so** grateful. You can help by going to one of the links shown below:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-920](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-920)

[www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1B5UNRLQREZDL/?ref\\_=ol\\_ov\\_le&filter=default&sort=default&viewType=grid](http://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1B5UNRLQREZDL/?ref_=ol_ov_le&filter=default&sort=default&viewType=grid)

We also have fertile eggs for sale, along with chickens, ducks, rabbits and guinea pigs. We are always on the lookout for volunteers, so if you have some time to spare, please do get in touch. We are so looking forward to seeing you. Thank you for your support. Our farm is on Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN.



Elaine Terry  
Tel: 07747 787973



## ST CLARE HOSPICE

[www.stclarehospice.org.uk](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk)

We are celebrating the third anniversary since the launch of our social movement project, *Compassionate Neighbours*. This is an award-winning project which aims to help tackle loneliness within local communities. Since the project started in 2018, it has connected more than 300 people with 166 volunteers who have trained to become compassionate neighbours, giving an hour a week to offer social and emotional support to others who are isolated. The project has come into its own during the pandemic, when instances of isolation and loneliness have increased with lockdown, especially for those who are clinically vulnerable. To date, the project has already matched more than 150 socially isolated individuals. It is open to people to self-refer to the service or for professionals to make referrals. The volunteers are matched with community members based on common interests, lifestyles and experiences; both parties benefit from a mutual, supportive relationship as friends. For example, a mutual love of dogs often forms the basis of a long-lasting friendship.



The project is actively recruiting volunteers who are able to spare time to bring friendship to the lives of lonely people. Regular training sessions are being run, currently via online meeting platform Zoom, and volunteers are DBS checked prior to becoming compassionate neighbours. Volunteering is a rewarding role where people can build genuine friendships by calling or meeting a local, socially isolated person every week. For more information on how people can access support, through friendship, and to find out more about becoming a compassionate neighbour visit our web-site.

Rebecca Cussens  
Communications Manager  
Tel: 07795 568742

Email: [rebecca.cussens@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.cussens@stclarehospice.org.uk)





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## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Izheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yplatham@uwclub.net
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St John's Road and Area Association	Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Bowls Club	Jeanette Mansell, Hon Secretary Tel: 01371 821446	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Brownies (Wed)	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	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	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: stanstedfamily@gmail.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 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 Tel: 814434	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	The Stansted in Bloom Group	Secretary: Trevor Lloyd Tel: 07739 428352 Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 07759 157620 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Ray Smith Tel: 813270
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com	W I Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: help@letstalkstansted.org	W I (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like your organisation to be added	
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School 506997	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Foster Tel: 07818 417971		

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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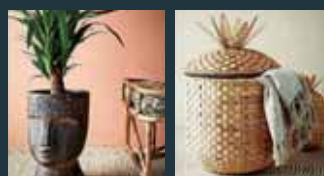
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