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Front cover:

The recently refurbished Knight Sign at the end of High Lane, taken by Roy Fowler

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

The Link is published by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and delivered free to 3700 homes and businesses in Stansted. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £11.00 per year, plus postage. Each edition is also available on our website.

If you do not receive your copy please email: distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk or telephone 813680

Editor

Elizabeth Oakley
01279 812690
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

Distribution Queries

David Horton
01279 813680
distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

Directors

Mike Dyer (Chairman)
Yvonne Ayres
Susan Bone
Catherine Dean
Marion Dyer
Sarah Ludlow-Elston
Elizabeth Oakley
Photographic Consultant Paul Burt

Advertising

Mike and Marion Dyer
01279 814059
adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Treasurer and Company Secretary

Alan Wheeler
01279 813745
accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk

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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 by noon on 9th August for the September issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th August to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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EDITORIAL



The Link team is very pleased to feature a photograph on the front cover by Roy Fowler, former Minister of the local Free Church. He and his wife Christine are on their way to retirement in Wiltshire; see p 15 for further details. Many thanks to Roy for submitting this excellent photograph. Warmest wishes for a long and happy retirement from all of us.

We have another goodbye to make; after 30 years of writing regular Nature Notes articles for The Link under the pseudonym of Felix, Tony Wellings is also retiring. We have so enjoyed his wonderful articles for the magazine, and his contributions will be greatly missed. Thank you so much, Tony, for providing us with such fascinating insights into the natural world, often accompanied by lovely photos. You have certainly inspired many Stansted residents to go out, look around and listen carefully to all the wonderful birds, insects and so forth who share our local countryside. You have also instilled in us an appreciation and admiration for the world of plants. Please see p 31 for Tony's final article for us. We wish him and his family the very best. Now, on to a practical aspect of this: The Link team would really like someone else to take on the writing of a regular Nature Notes type of article. Please get in touch with one of us if you would like to do this. Happy August to everyone, whether you are braving the airports and going abroad, or whether you are staying within the UK.



CHILDREN CLIMB SNOWDON FOR CHARITY



On **Saturday 28th August**, my children Chloe and Sullivan, aged 10 and 7, will be scaling Mount Snowdon in Wales to raise money for Cancer Research UK. After sadly losing their Gran rapidly to breast cancer in 2019 they are determined to put their best feet forward towards a very good cause. Not just in remembering their Gran, Lesley Newton, but also in acknowledging everyone's personal losses and experiences with cancer.



At the summit of Culter Fell in South Lanarkshire

Having climbed several peaks in Scotland earlier this year, and enduring some very long walks during lockdown, they are hopeful their little legs and determination will enable them to make the nine-mile hike to the top of the summit and make the descent on foot! They intend to collect a stone from the summit and place it in the gardens of St Gemma's Hospice in Leeds who cared for their Gran in her final days. If you would like to support their cause please visit their JustGiving page: Elizabeth Newton is fundraising for Cancer Research UK ([justgiving.com](https://www.justgiving.com)). They are aiming for £1,000 but all sponsorship is very gratefully received.

Elizabeth Newton
Tel: 07951 776608

Investigators is a group for children aged around 7-11 years on **Fridays 6.30pm-8pm** in the Free Church Hall. We enjoy a mixture of games, challenges and creative activities. We also have a Bible story most weeks, and use this to stimulate discussion on topics relevant to children such as friendship, including and valuing everyone, sharing and encouraging others. Investigators has a lively, friendly and supportive atmosphere, with children from at least five different primary schools, and it has been successful in helping some quite shy children to boost their confidence. Investigators is run by Stansted Family Church. Although some children who come attend a church, or a church school, most do not and everyone is welcome. Just before Covid we made lanterns, and some bug-themed crafts, as well as playing various lively and quieter games. Dodgeball and balloon volleyball are definite favourites, as well as *Islands and Sharks* and *Human Noughts and Crosses*. The children have also created puppet plays and taken part in drama activities sometimes. No two Fridays are the same!

We are planning to return on **10th September** after a long break caused by the pandemic. If your child would like to try out Investigators, please contact me as soon as possible as places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Although most children attending are 7+ we do welcome some 6-year-olds, especially siblings. We know many do not want to wait until their 7th birthday to join in the fun, so there is some flexibility after their 6th birthday has been reached. All leaders are DBS checked, have appropriate safeguarding training, and are experienced in working with children.



Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com



FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

Young members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ+) community were able to express themselves among their school peers with time devoted to diversity. The school acknowledged Diversity Week with a programme of activities to bring about conversation. Students who attend the school's LGBTQ+ club and the student executive team helped to create a display of handprints decorated by their classmates showing their support to the community. Students also took part in a quiz about the LGBTQ+ community to get them thinking about the diversity of people around them. They also watched videos of young people's stories of growing up in the LGBTQ+ community and took part in a house challenge based around Diversity Week with maths, general knowledge and celebrity sections.



Sarah Power, enrichment lead, said: "The month of June is Pride month when we work with the LGBTQ+ charity *Just Like Us* to mark Diversity Week. We sign up every year to access their fantastic resources, masterclasses, workshops and guest speakers to promote LGBTQ+ in class. It was just so nice to see our students in this community being themselves completely in a safe space. They are very young and it was lovely to see them really happy. It was great to put up the display of hundreds of 'helping hands' to show our whole community coming together. It is important to show we are supportive of all of our students, regardless of their gender, background or sexuality. Students have been at home for a lot more time than usual and so have been exposed to just one or two opinions, which has had an effect on them. It has been good to be able to expose them to more."

Kelly Clark



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

Open at last! We are delighted that *The Place* will be open every **Wednesday** 10.00am-noon, starting on **4th August**. We will be in the hall rather than the church foyer, to enable people to socially distance if they wish to do so. Initially we are just welcoming adults and will be following whatever Covid guidance is in place for the hospitality sector. Although there is no longer a requirement to wear a face covering, visitors are welcome to do so if they prefer. There is no need to book, just turn up. We look forward to seeing you.

Mike and Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



www.stansted10k.org.uk

We still need helpers for this year's Fun Run on Sunday 19th September; for further information please email: marshalls.stanstedfunrun@gmail.com. We are also looking for sponsors to support the event, whether by a donation for the raffle or monetary support. Please email us or visit our Facebook page. Registration to take part in the run is still open and can be made via our website. This year we are supporting St Clare Hospice, Grove Cottage, The Huw Johnson Club and St Margaret's Mental Health Unit.

Clair Rava

Email: stansted10k@gmail.com

DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org




As you may well now know, we are open and our animals just love seeing all our wonderful visitors. They are all having such a super time being fed and having a fuss made of them, so please keep on coming. We still have lots of babies in all sorts of shapes, furriness and sizes, so be sure to come and see them – they are soooooo cute! We are open 9.00am-3.00pm every day except Wednesdays and Sundays and we are operating a booking service which you can find on our website. On entry to the farm and once checked in, you will be given some animal food and you can then visit and feed our lovely animals and see how much they have grown. We also have the small animals' enclosure, the play equipment, our picnic area (you will need to bring your own picnic) and our den building area. You can splash in the stream, visit our old friends the horses and explore our brilliant woodland walk; don't miss out this summer.



More exciting news, we now have a campsite, and it is in the most fabulous part of the farm and would make a brilliant staycation for anyone. It is all ready and waiting for guests, so if you fancy a stay, get in touch via our website or Facebook page. Come on down to the farm, we cannot wait to see you! We are at Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry

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MINDFULNESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

What is Mindfulness?

In a nutshell, mindfulness is paying attention to what is happening in the moment. It is about connecting to your breathing, tuning into your senses and listening to what your body is saying. It teaches you how to remain grounded and how to respond to situations thoughtfully instead of reacting impulsively. Teenagers can at times feel especially overwhelmed with what is going on in their mind and body, and this is where mindfulness comes in. These overwhelming feelings and emotions can arise through pressures created by everyday things such as:


- responsibilities from school, college and university
- high expectations from others around them
- emotional break ups and conflict

The feelings manifest themselves in symptoms of anxiety, stress and other mood disorders. Mindfulness provides techniques to deal with these over-arching emotions through the practice of meditation, group activities, discussions and games. I run fun and inspiring workshops which allow young people to explore gratitude and kindness, and assist in building resilience, self-esteem and confidence by helping to:

- build connection and communication skills
- focus on strengths within oneself as well as others
- explore empathy, compassion and humility in a non-judgemental environment
- increase positivity
- understand how emotions can manifest in the body
- regulate emotions.

Workshops are based on the *Youth Mindfulness SOMA* programme, and run over four modules. Day 1 can be attended as a taster day, Days 1 and 2 can be attended as a mini workshop; for full benefits, the four-day course is recommended. The days are made up of four 45-minute sessions with breaks and lunch, and there will be a certificate ceremony at the end of the fourth day which parents/carers are welcome to attend. During the school holidays, there are courses at various venues in Uttlesford including Stansted Free Church Hall. See our Facebook page www.facebook.com/dragonflymoonmindfulness for timetables, venues and pricing.

Sally Bourne
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Mouth taping reduces snoring, increases immune system, improves sleep quality and reduces anxiety. Yes, taping your mouth shut at night sounded awful to me too. Read on. A good way to start this daunting drill is to start small. Get some micropore tape from the chemist, which is the best for this task. Others are too weedy and just slide off. Shut your mouth and place a small bit of tape vertically over the centre of your lips and go to bed. You will breathe out of the corners of your mouth during the night, but your mouth cannot hang open like a basking shark, so the snoring will be less and the tongue can sit higher within the mouth.



As you get used to this, increase the amount of mouth you cover, working up to covering the whole mouth so you have to breathe through your nose all night long. Now you get the benefits of nasal breathing: the warmed air passing through the mucus membranes, our first line of defence. When we get very stressed, we mouth breathe. Therefore, breathing through the nose is interpreted by the brain as low stress levels, hence why it is calming. When we are asleep, we fight bears! At least we fight them calmly. So nasal breathing will help improve the quality of your sleep. It may also help teeth grinding and sleep apnoea. Nasal breathing is far more efficient, and one theory is that it is lack of oxygen that makes the teeth snap shut for a good grind, or wakes us up briefly to take a good breath. No, it will not cure everything but it is a good move in the right direction for minimal outlay and a moment of time, plus a handful of determination.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 816430



www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk

Our Covid-safe cleaning and re-tubing service for NHS hearing aids continues throughout the Summer on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in the Stansted Free Church Hall, by appointment only. To book, please call 01245 496347, text 07950 406173 or email: info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk. A doorstep service is available for those who are housebound. We also provide an information, advice and guidance service to people across Essex living with hearing loss. Please contact us for details.

Susan Butler
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LET'S TALK, STANSTED!

www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

Our mental health theme for August is *gardening* and we are delighted to announce the launch of a new project for men. The Veg Shed is a new group based in the village and is part of the Essex Shed Network. Men's Sheds are places where men can meet, make friends, get involved in a community activity and have fun. Men aged 45+ have one of the highest suicide rates for any demographic and many suffer with isolation, work and family stress as well as financial struggles. Meeting in a safe space with others is a great way to share your burdens and take your mind off your daily struggles.



The new meeting group is based at the Elms Farm Allotments where we will meet every Sunday to manage an allotment plot and grow fruit and vegetables. All men are welcome, whether experienced growers or complete novices. To find out more visit the website above and look for Veg Shed or call the number below. We also run a weekly walking group, Muddy Walkers, every Thursday at 7.30pm, which is open to everyone. This is a gentle way to walk, talk and connect with nature. Everyone is welcome to get in touch with the team, whatever your state of mind. For further information, visit our website, email, or join us on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/letstalkstansted.

Richard Haywood
Tel: 07794 268208

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

I must begin by saying a big thank you to those people who have told me that they would like to volunteer as stewards when the windmill is allowed to be opened again. By the time you read this, we will know what the Government's new guidelines are, which will enable me to set out opening dates for August, September and October. We are continuing with preparations for the windmill fête as we are still hopeful that this will take place on Bank Holiday Monday **30th August** from 1.00pm-5.00 pm. I still have a few spaces left so anyone interested in having one should get in touch with me as soon as possible on the number below, as spaces are going fast.

Finally, good friends of the windmill, John Salmon and his wife Dot have, once again, been supplying us with many plants this year which are placed outside the front of my house, *Carte Blanche*, Mill Side, where they can be obtained for any reasonable donation, in aid of the maintenance of the windmill. I would like to thank all those generous people who have already done so.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768



ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Bereavement Helpline

This is available to everyone who is experiencing bereavement and looking to talk to someone immediately about how they are feeling. The helpline is also able to offer help and advice following the loss of a loved one, whether the loss was recent or in the past. Callers do not need to have used our services before and will be able to access immediate help and support. By calling our Bereavement Support Helpline, you will have access to a range of supportive services:

- A listening ear and emotional support from trained St Clare staff and volunteers
- Information and guidance on what to do after a death, such as registering a death, closing accounts, planning a funeral and other practical arrangements and considerations
- Signposting to other St Clare services that you can access, as well as resources in your local community that could benefit you.



Our helpline operates Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm. Please phone 967670, which is free to call, though charges may apply in line with your standard network rate.

Rebecca Cussens
Communications Manager
Tel: 07795 568742

Email: rebecca.cussens@stclarehospice.org.uk

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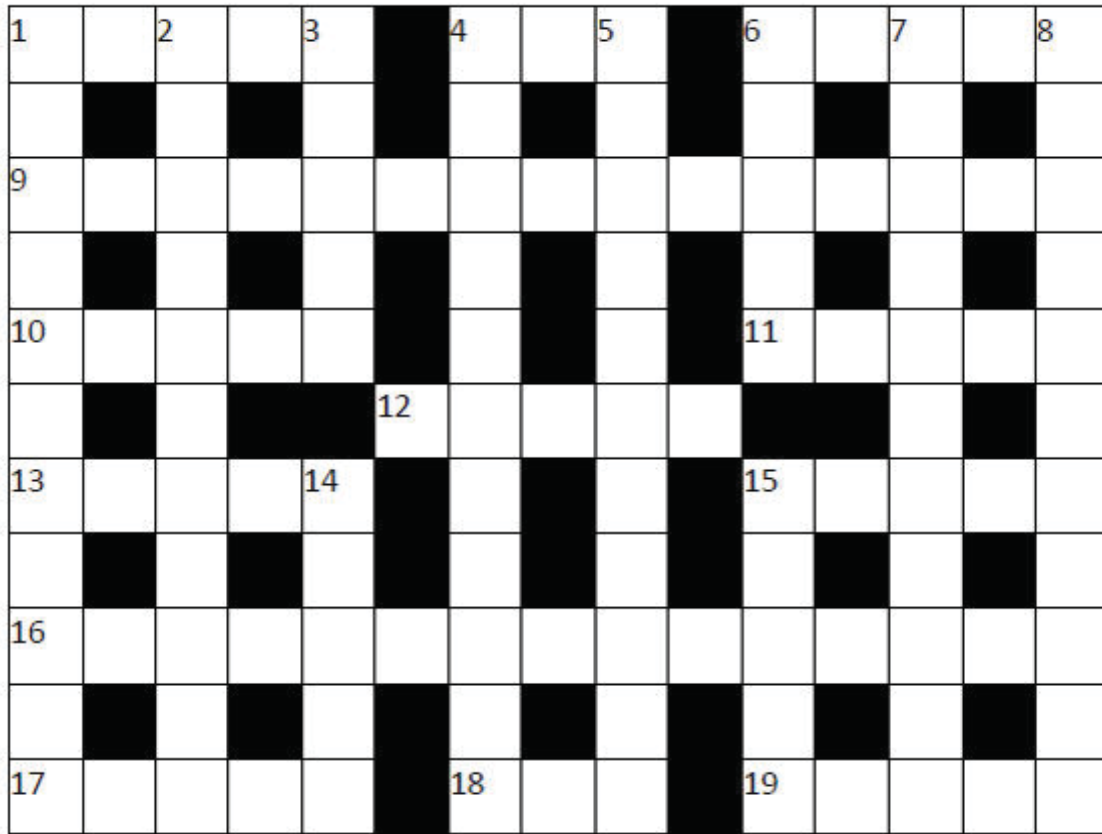
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ALL WORK GUARANTEED



FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 29

ACROSS

- 1 Alloy for instruments (5)
- 4 The former East Germany (initials) (1,1,1)
- 6 Go away or soldier's pass (5)
- 9 Holiday resort in the west country (6,5,4)
- 10 Character in Starlight Express with ferric oxide (5)
- 11 Acted like a young trainee (5)
- 12 He's a naughty boy (5)
- 13 Hammer these on the head (5)
- 15 Instrument like a small round guitar (5)
- 16 Quango dealing with accidents and their prevention (6,3,6)
- 17 Old local official or thread through a ring (5)
- 18 Lastly (3)
- 19 This word should be at the beginning (5)

DOWN

- 1 Either of the securing devices at the front of a ship (5,6)
- 2 Murder by contract, like JFK (11)
- 3 Fable or tale such as at bedtime (5)
- 4 Signal by hand and arm movement (11)
- 5 Rebuked or told off (11)
- 6 A word from a song (5)
- 7 The stopping of an event or action due to adverse circumstances (11)
- 8 Substance dissolved to make liquid capable of conducting a current (11)
- 14 Eric composed piano music (5)
- 15 Show off, brag (5)

SQUARE THINGS QUIZ

- 1 Where does the phrase "Back to square one" originate?
- 2 Which platoon of the Home Guard was commanded by Captain Square?
- 3 Where is the largest public square in the world?
- 4 What is the perimeter of a ten acre square field?
- 5 Where would I find "Four lions to guard me"?
- 6 What is the Square of Pegasus?
- 7 Everyone has heard of the Theorem of Pythagoras about the square on the hypotenuse and so on, but in which century was Pythagoras born?
- 8 What is the main feature of the Piazza Venezia in Rome?
- 9 Which two major thoroughfares meet to form Times Square, New York?
- 10 How can one distinguish, on sight, between a boxing ring and a wrestling ring?
- 11 After 1, which is the only other square Fibonacci number?
- 12 The slang meaning of square is old-fashioned or out of date. What is the corresponding word for one in the know?

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 31

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As most of us know, Lower Street flooded in February 2014, it was horrific for those whose homes or businesses were flooded.



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Ray Woodcock
Tel: 816468



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Thank you to everyone who has brought items for recycling. 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). Please continue to leave items in the boxes outside the blue main door of the Stansted Free Church. There is also a collecting box inside St John's Church for those of you who go there for Sunday worship. 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



THE STANSTED IN BLOOM GROUP

By the time you read this, the judging for the 2021 Garden Competitions will have taken place and we will be preparing to announce the winners and present the prizes. Details of the winners will be published via social media as well as in the September edition of The Link.



Lucy Loveridge takes care of the Stansted in Bloom planter outside the storage unit on Chapel Hill

As I write we are delighted to have more than 30 entrants across the six categories which is significantly more than we have attracted in the past, so the judges faced a busy day when they visited the gardens on Sunday 11th July.

At the same time as organising our own garden competition we are also preparing our entry in the Anglia in Bloom Competition. In a normal year judges would tour the village but because of the pandemic they have decided on a virtual competition this year. We have identified the following as sites we think have some merit and hopefully will impress the judges.

Spring Planting Display - Tulips at Blythwood Gardens

Area of sustainable planting - High Lane Junction

Public space - Elms Farm Allotments

Hanging basket(s) - The 80+ baskets funded by the Parish Council

Wild life/wild flower area - Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve

Local authority planting - Memorial Gardens

Churchyard/crematorium/garden of remembrance - St Mary's Church Yard/ St Theresa's Church

It's your neighbourhood - The Mountfitchet Care Home



Paris Legore judging a garden on Gilbey Crescent

For each entry we can submit five photographs supported by a written submission of no more than 50 words. We would welcome any photos people might have taken of any of the sites being nominated. Please email them to me.

Trevor Lloyd

Tel: 07739 428352

Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com

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Sandra Ayres
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www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

Twelve members of the Walking and Nature Appreciation Group met on 23rd June, a lovely sunny day, for a walk from Stansted across the fields to Ugley Green, returning via Buxton's Nature Reserve. In High Lane they saw a magnificent display of poppies where the ground had been disturbed by construction work and near the old village pump on Ugley Green they watched a red kite circling overhead. They enjoyed the walk and were looking forward to the next one in July. The Strummers (Ukulele) group have also been meeting and will be playing at St Mary's Church on **8th August** 3.30pm-4.30pm as part of their *Open Sunday* (see below). Groups have also been meeting on Zoom, such as the Literature Study Group, which this year so far has read *The Periodic Table* by Primo Levi, *The Citadel* by A J Cronin and *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. A number of groups, such as Yoga and Pilates, are planning to restart in September.



The Strummers playing at St Mary's Church in July 2017

The General Meeting is on **Thursday 19th August** 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St John's Hall, when Eve Regelous will give a talk called *History of Tea and Afternoon Tea Destinations*; we look forward to seeing you. We aim to hold our AGM in October. Please note that we are welcoming nominations from all members for posts on the Committee.

Anne White
Tel: 07874 385541



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Our first Open Sunday since Covid struck brought many lovely people to church. It was so nice to see all those of you who came. It was almost like normal times. The music played and then ... in came Tim who asked if he could play the organ! How wonderful for us! Thanks to him for making the open day even more special. Our next Open Sunday is **8th August** at 2.00pm-5.00pm and once again the kettle will be on and a warm welcome awaits. There will also be a

performance by the Stansted Mountfitchet U3A Strummers at 3.30pm-4.30pm. Come along for a foot tapping sing-along and a fun afternoon.

Last reminder now about theatre: *The Secret Garden* on **Saturday 21st August** at 1.00pm. I know many of you have already purchased your tickets online to help us with seating arrangements. Tickets are available from www.thisismytheatre.com or by phone 07732 253311. This is a truly amazing theatre group and I am sure all the family will absolutely enjoy live theatre right here on your doorstep. Hope to see you all very soon.



Lynda Dale
Chairman
Tel: 07716 099474
Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com

STANSTED EVENING WI



The County Annual Meeting was held via Zoom at the end of June and Jenny Wraith represented us. She said that only 114 members were present. Essex is one of the largest areas in the country and there are 198 Institutes in our county with 8500 members. The meeting opened with a solo rendition of *Jerusalem*. Our County Chairman said that the pandemic has not caused membership to drop as much as feared. There were two speakers: Danny Oakes and Nick Newlands. Danny played rugby throughout his school days and became a member of Thurrock Athletic Club. His ambition to be a professional rugby player was dashed when he was involved in a serious accident at the age of 21 in which he lost his right arm. He became determined to succeed despite this and tried various things before becoming an international Paralympic athlete and, as a runner, won a gold medal in the Athens Paralympics of 2004. He retired from top athletics in 2009 but has been involved in cycling, running marathons and commentating ever since.

Nick talked about his work for the charity Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) of which the National Federation of WIs was one of the founding members. This supports rural women, helping them with training and development programmes and enabling them to earn money and improve family life. Nick sits on a committee which involves women's rights, some of which are being breached by governments. Most Institutes raise money each year for ACWW, so Jenny found Nick's information on the various projects very interesting. One of these is the Revolving Piggery Project, a scheme whereby women are given four piglets to rear and when they have increased in number, they donate two piglets to continue the project.

We welcome any new members to our Institute; our outside meetings are advertised so just turn up if you wish, and hopefully we will soon be able to meet as usual at the Day Centre. Our President's phone number is in The Link directory for any enquiries.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I am writing this article on Wednesday 30th June and England has just beaten Germany 2-0 in Euro 2020. By the time you read this we will know the outcome of the tournament. I am going to predict we beat Italy in the final and that football really did come home this summer. However, I do not really know what the future holds because the future is uncertain. The prudent may plan for their future; they may study, work hard, marry well, set aside money, look after their health, but no-one really knows what is round the corner. If the last year or so has taught us anything, surely it is that.

So, is life just a scary roller-coaster of unpredictability and potential disaster that we cannot predict or control? It may seem like that sometimes, but for those with a true faith in God, and an ongoing relationship with Him, it is not. In Psalm 23 David declares that the Lord is his shepherd and then goes on to explain the consequence of his relationship with God. He tells us that he lacks nothing, that he is directed to green pastures and led beside quiet waters. His soul is refreshed, and he is guided along the right paths. Even when David walked through the darkest valley he did not fear because his shepherd was with him, comforting him. The psalm ends: "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Jesus said in John 10, 'I am the gate for the sheep ... whoever enters through me will be saved ... I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'.



Howard Page
Family Church



www.stanstedfamilychurch.co.uk

Contact Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com

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

We have been pleased to meet in person again since 20th July, but our regular Tuesday evening venue is still unavailable as The Link goes to print. If you would like to join us on a Tuesday evening or a Sunday, please get in touch as venues may change closer to the time. All meetings offer a combination of modern worship music, Bible-based talk/discussion and prayer. We hope to resume the Alpha Course in the autumn, and Investigators children's group in September. We are happy to receive prayer requests from anyone, and regularly see prayers answered. 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



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draw:

£100	No 87	Joan Tivendale
£50	No 53	Nicola Ward
£25	No 165	Clare Arnold

The draw for August will be held on **29th August** in St John's Church, 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 this year. The Club raises vital money for the maintenance costs and work of St John's Church and raised £2,478 between 1st May 2020 and 30th April 2021. Many thanks to all members of the Club.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062

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Preachers for August

1st 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
15th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
29th 10.30am Denis Walker



Farewell to Roy

The sun did not shine but at least the rain held off so that we could enjoy coffee outside after Roy's farewell service with us. Roy and Christine will be staying in Stansted for a few months whilst their retirement accommodation in Wiltshire is finalised. Roy is a keen photographer and we are delighted that one of his photographs features on this month's front cover.



The process of seeking a new minister now begins and is likely to take some while, so please contact the secretary as above with any general church enquiries.

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



Mike and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

From St John's Registers

Funerals

20th May Anne Florence Wilson, age 97 - at Cam Valley
11th June Jean Constance Winder, age 99 - service St John's followed by cremation at Cam Valley
17th June Thomas Frederick Johnson, age 92 - at Cam Valley

There were no weddings or baptisms



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Assistant Curate Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145
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IN MEMORIAM

JEAN WINDER

9th February 1922 – 25th May 2021



As many of you will know, our dear Mum passed away at home recently. She was an amazing lady and a much-loved mother and grandmother and we shall all miss her terribly. She lived in Stansted for over 70 years and became a well-known member of the community, still remembered as Sister Winder from her days working at the Herts and Essex Hospital, and as the school nurse at St Mary's Primary school, which was then in the centre of the village. She was also very much involved with the Huw Johnson Club, which she really loved. Many people in the village will remember her from the Day Centre, as she enjoyed lunches there, bingo at Norman's Court and visiting the library regularly on a Saturday afternoon.

Mum loved living in Stansted and saw many changes over the years. She had lots of friends and wonderful neighbours and it is lovely that she is so fondly remembered. Thank you for all the kind messages and cards that we have received and for the generous donations to St Clare Hospice and the Huw Johnson Club in Mum's memory. We would also like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at Stansted Surgery who have taken great care of Mum over the years, and our heartfelt thanks go to our Community Matron, Liz Brough, and the fantastic team of district nurses who looked after Mum during her recent illness. Thank you also to St Clare Hospice, their team of Hospice at Home carers and to the carers from Care Just 4 You. She was a very special lady who will be missed so much by her family, friends and neighbours, but never forgotten.

Peter and Margaret

THANK YOU TO CROSSWORD ROGER

This month sees the publication of the final crossword in our series compiled by Roger Wardle. Sadly, Roger died last year, but his widow Sheila invited us to continue printing his crosswords in his memory, and we hope Link readers have found them of value, if somewhat challenging at times!

If there are any budding crossword compilers out there, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk or call 812690.



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Hopefully you are all enjoying being able to get out into the garden and are making the most of the sunny weather. The harvesting of vegetable patches has begun; home grown food tastes so different, the short time between plot and pot makes such a difference. The flower borders are bursting with colour too; it is amazing how much growth and colour you get from those small seeds and tiny plants in just a couple of months! If you sit with your eyes closed and just listen – the garden is alive with the buzz of bees and bird song. Dead-heading your plants and roses will help them to continue to flower over the summer. Some plants though need a real hair-cut; hardy geraniums are a good example. When the first flush of flowers is over, cut the plants right down leaving just the newest shoots and you will get a second flush of flowers towards the end of the summer. It is also an ideal time to start sowing biennial seeds (Sweet William, wallflowers, honesty, foxgloves, etc.) so they get a head start. They will start to flower as early as May next year.

Open Gardens

Every week more and more gardens are opening their doors and welcoming visitors again. Many of the National Garden Scheme open gardens are small family gardens and on occasions the number of visitors has to be restricted; it is always advisable to check in case booking is required.

Future Meetings

At the moment the Day Centre is still closed. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel as there are on-going talks with a third party regarding the running of the centre. As soon as we hear anything we will let everyone know. In the meantime, enjoy your gardens.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144

THE LINK'S YOUNGEST READER?

Thank you to Julie Khan who sent us this lovely photograph of her two-year-old grandson, Rafael, reading the July issue of The Link.



Julie says that he particularly liked the peacocks on the front cover!

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Everyday Care from Someone Local You Can Trust!

At our monthly Open Day on **Sunday 22nd August**, we will celebrate the variety of trees at the gardens which reflect the enthusiasm of plant collectors in the Victorian and Edwardian era. Many of the venerable species are not native to the UK; for example there is a sequoia by the car park: *Wellingtonia gigantea* (named after the Duke of Wellington after his death in 1852); a huge cedar of Lebanon, planted by Edward Prince of Wales in the late 19th century and a marsh cypress, which is native to the South East of America.

Harold Peto used trees to create structure in his designs for the gardens in 1902. He introduced formal avenues of pleached limes, which enclosed the Countess' treehouse in an oak, and limes and yews lined the side of what we now call the Glade. The Countess of Warwick's son, Maynard Greville, added further trees.



Do join us on 22nd August to learn about our trees. We will showcase those which, by dint of their height or girth, are county champions and our national champion apple tree, the *Easton Countess*. This old apple tree could not be identified and DNA analysis of its leaves confirmed that there was no known match, therefore it is unique to our gardens. We will also welcome the return of *Woodwind of Stortford*, who are itching to get out to play again once that is allowed.

Open Days are now by ticket, obtainable through our website, our Facebook page or direct from Trybooking.com. If you cannot visit us on a Sunday, why not come for an Open Thursday? It is our main volunteering day, so visitors get to see the hard work underway. There is no need to purchase tickets in advance. Details of the more limited offer on Thursdays can be found on our website.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

RANDOM JOTTINGS

A few old harvest related tools

As it is harvest time, I searched the shed for a few old tools which would have been used at this time of the year. The photo shows the scythe which was the universal tool for cutting the corn for centuries before mechanisation took over.



In the angle of the scythe is a plaited leather belt with a holder for the sharpening stone, which was used little and often to maintain a sharp edge on the blade. The simple cranked tool with a hook is a wimple or straw twister which was used to make short straw ropes from the wheat straw which were then used to bind together the sheaves of cut corn.



The other photo shows this operation in a harvest scene on an old biscuit tin. There is a reaping sickle and a heftier bagging hook which I used recently to clear an overgrown patch, along with the crotched stick which was used to hook up any stuff lying flat.

Tony Wellings

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 21st August

Ugley Village Hall

10.00am-12 noon



All our great stalls hope to be here and, regulations permitting, we will have refreshments with home-made cakes and bacon rolls!

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

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Grass cutting the Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill

GRASS CUTTING

As any green-fingered residents may well know, warm, wet summers like the one we have had this year are a boon to our hedges, lawns and verges. Days of sunlight and showers result in lush, green foliage that unfortunately becomes quickly overgrown.

Maintaining the village's green spaces isn't just about ensuring they don't become unsightly. It is also about ensuring public safety. Overgrown hedges can block the views of motorists and tall grass can hide obstacles on footpaths from unwary pedestrians.

Cutting grass and clipping hedges to protect public safety is a task the Council takes seriously. This year £21,200 of our budget is set aside for this purpose. In the summer months, between April and September, the Council's contractors follow a timetable that sees them mow all local authority administered lawns and verges twice a month. This is no small task. There are more than 50 grass areas in Stansted. This number includes the Cemetery and Churchyard, the Recreation Ground, Bentfield Greens and most of the verges along Cambridge Road.

Our efforts do not go unnoticed. At a recent Full Council Meeting, a long-time resident praised the Council for the upkeep of the Memorial Gardens on Chapel Hill, saying they looked the best they had ever been. Residents are also quick to point out areas of the village in need of attention. But arranging a cut or a quick prune can take time. Why is this?

Part of the reason for this is down to levels of local government responsibility. Not all of the hedges and verges fall un-

der the Parish Council's control. Take the neglected verges at Foresthall Park - those belong to Essex Highways. Meanwhile Uttlesford District Council retain ownership of many of the verges surrounding the Mountfitchet Estate.

Clouding the picture of responsibility further, the Parish Council has entered into a formal agency agreement with Essex County Council to cut the areas in Stansted they otherwise would be duty bound to up-keep. This agreement has been in place for very many years and therefore does not extend to Foresthall Park! (Boring fact - the Parish Council cannot spend public money on maintaining land which it does not own or have a legal agreement for - hence we can't just take on the Essex-owned bits of FHP).

So who should you report to a patch of grass that needs cut or hedge that needs a trim?

In the first instance contact the Parish Council. We will be able to identify which authority is responsible for the land in question. If it falls under our care, we can work with our contractor to resolve the issue. We can also raise your concern with other tiers of local government when responsibility lies elsewhere.

STANSTED CEMETERY

One area of the village that demonstrated exemplary community and Council co-operation on grass cutting has been the Stansted Cemetery. The grass appeared to be running riot and residents rightly brought this to our attention, though all was not necessarily as it seemed.

Parts of the cemetery where spring daffodils had grown were deliberately allowed to become fallow. Best practice calls for vegetation in such spots to be left for between 6-8 weeks. This affords time for vegetation to die back naturally so next year bulbs will bloom successfully.

Letting nature take its course meant grass and weeds in these areas thrived without a mow. Now the waiting



Even well maintained hedges can obscure street signs in summer months



Stansted Cemetery

period has passed, the normal cycle of mowing has resumed and the overgrowth has been brought under control.

The installation of a rabbit-proof fence at the start of the year has also had an unintended consequence. The trimmers used to deal with the thick vegetation in the rest of the cemetery are too powerful for the fence. Cutting growth too close to it would result in the netting being torn. Avoiding this has meant allowing foliage to grow longer at the cemetery's edge.



Trimming to the edge of the cemetery risks damage to the rabbit fence

And then there has been the nature of the ground itself. The cemetery is densely populated with graves and grave-stones which make cutting the grass challenging if damage is to be avoided. Over the summer, the Council's contractor has been training up a new staff member to take on this task. While they have been learning the ropes, there has been more space for weeds and grass to grow. It is hoped with time and experience tighter, neater cuts of the grass in the cemetery will naturally result.

The contractor kindly scheduled an extra cut for the cemetery. We are pleased to report that it is looking in much better shape now. We would like to thank the public for bringing this issue to our attention, as well as for their patience whilst we sought an explanation and arranged a remedy.



STREET BEATS

Nikki Morris
Police Community
Support Officer

Nikki Morris is keen to meet you to discuss crime-related matters at her Street Beat events. The PCSO, who is partly funded by the Parish Council, sets her stall out each month at a venue around the village to hear residents' concerns about crime in the area.

PCSO Morris says the meet-and-greet sessions are vital, not just to pick up intelligence about local crime from the public, but also because the events serve as a reminder that the police are active in the community fighting crime.

At a recent event, PCSO Morris and Police Constable Steve Sharma chatted to residents outside the Surgery. A busy session saw them offer advice on how to manage online

PCSO Nikki Morris
and PC Steve
Sharma outside
Stansted Pharmacy
recently for a Street
Beat event



abuse and how to deal with intrusive neighbours, as well as strengthen community ties by minding a shopper's dog! The public were also invited to take away free torches, stickers to ward off cold callers, personal alarms and door-handle alarms (useful for securing a shed).

Over the summer PCSO Morris has been busy conducting speed checks in Stansted and ensuring knives are kept off our streets by manning a knife arch at the train station. She says that much local crime is low level, typically confined to issues of anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes.

"I would advise people not to get involved themselves if there is a problem relating to anti-social behaviour," she says. "The safest thing is to write down the details of the incident and report the situation to the police using the 101 number."

She adds that not all anti-social behaviour is necessarily a crime and urges the public to engage with Uttlesford District Council, which has a dedicated team to deal with the issue.

The next Street Beat session is on 29 July at Foresthall Park. Times and dates are subject to change.

PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022



It is time to prepare for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 (image - Dmitry Naumov, Dreamstime.com)

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

A highlight of next year's celebrations to mark this achievement will be a bank holiday weekend from June 2-5. This has been set aside for public events and community festivities to honour the Queen.

It is never too soon for residents to start planning if they wish to get involved. This is especially true if you wish to organise your own Big Lunch Royal Street Party and a road or street needs to be closed. For that you will need approval from Essex Highways. You are reminded not to delay before they get swamped by similar requests.

NEW COUNCILLORS

After the local elections in May and the recent co-optation of two councillors, we are pleased to welcome three new faces to the Parish Council.

First to come on board was **Paul Davies**. He was elected to represent constituents of the north ward of the parish in May's local elections and stood for the Conservative Party.

Paul and his family moved to the village in 2019 and were previously residents of Little Dunmow, where Paul served as an Uttlesford District Councillor for four years prior to relocating.



Party affiliations aside, he is keen to put people before politics and to promote anything that stands to benefit the community.

Thomas Smith was co-opted as a councillor in June. An accountant by profession, Thomas moved to Stansted with his wife to enjoy living close to the countryside. He has experience helping communities in East London to access local authority services.



He is a strong advocate for more affordable housing in the area for younger residents, and is keen to improve efficiency and accountability at

the council for the community. "I want to be an effective advocate for all residents, making sure their interests and the community has a voice to improve local services," he says.

Also co-opted at the same time as Thomas was **Anne-Marie Guney**. She is a nursery practitioner and was a proprietor of a public house. While living in the village for the last two and a half years, she has volunteered at Elms Farm and assisted Stansted Surgery with its Covid jab roll-out.

Anne-Marie is particularly proud of initiating a project during the pandemic that saw 900 pairs of surgical scrubs made for the NHS in just 12 weeks.



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Ayub Khan
District Councillor
reports



Vote of No Confidence

The Stansted and Stort Valley Councillors, as well as members from other opposition groups, produced a motion of No Confidence in the R4U Leader and Cabinet at Uttlesford District Council (UDC) on 28th June. The motion was put because since being elected in 2019, R4U has presided over a catalogue of failures. These include a failed appeal on Stansted Airport expansion where the Inspectors have awarded costs

against UDC, a current police investigation into one or more R4U councillors and a culture of bullying and deceit. The loss of the appeal on airport expansion will be expensive. UDC legal fees alone are in the region of £1.1m, add in Manchester Airport Group's costs, and you can see a bill of more than £2.5m. This is money that could have paid for valuable services across the district. The Council's accounts for 19/20 have still not been signed off by the External Auditor and whilst the police and internal investigation continues, the 20/21 accounts will remain unsigned. The number of R4U councillors meant that the motion was defeated, yet we have exposed the maladministration of R4U. Integrity matters in any political administration because the public demand it. You can listen to the debate as the recording is now available on the UDC website.

A new Chief Executive

Rob Tinlin is the Interim Chief Executive at UDC. Rob replaces Dawn French who has decided to spend more time with her family after several years working in local government. Rob brings significant experience to UDC, having previously led a large unitary authority. His immediate priorities will be to focus on the big issues such as the Local Plan, as well as provide good leadership to the paid staff of UDC. Stansted Councillors have already met with Rob and very much look forward to working with him.

Local Plan

Work continues to develop a new Local Plan for the district. The new plan will now require the district to build 706 new homes per year until 2040. The previous plan which R4U withdrew had a requirement of 636. The increased number will put pressure on the whole of the district as well as our own neighbourhood development plan for Stansted. Put simply, speculative development as well as developers building homes that offer no additional facilities for the community such as new doctor's surgeries, dentists and schools is not sustainable. Clearly, the Conservative government continue to push through new planning laws which is making it difficult for local authorities to oppose. House building is needed, but they must be carefully thought through and planned. Sadly, this does not seem to be the case.

Day Centre Provision

The plans for our new community provision including The Day Centre, operated through Touchpoint, are progressing well. I am working with colleagues at UDC to secure funding to enable some refurbishment to take place at the premises. This is a valuable service and the exciting plans that Touchpoint have will be of great benefit to the whole of Stansted.

Stansted South District Councillor surgeries

Now that restrictions are beginning to ease, Cllr Melvin Caton and I will be re starting surgeries for the community in Stansted South from September. These will take place on a Saturday 10 am – 12 pm. Further details and dates will be posted on local Facebook pages as well as the Parish Council website.

Finally, it is worth taking the time to congratulate the team at Stansted Surgery for their continued work in administering the vaccine. In addition, the contribution of the range of volunteers and community groups across Stansted from litter picking, to flood control, to speed watch cannot be underestimated. Thank you for all that you do.

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

STAFF

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Trainee Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 01279 813214

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-1pm

Website: stansted.net

Facebook: stansted.parishcouncil

Instagram: stanstedparishcouncil

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are no meeting scheduled for August.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan BARNES

tel: 817214 email: alanbarnes@stansted.net

Daniel BRETT

tel: 817974 email: danielbrett@stansted.net

Maureen CATON - CHAIRMAN

tel: 813914 email: maureencaton@stansted.net

Paul DAVIES

tel: 07525062548 email: pauldavies@stansted.net

Jamie HOGG

tel: 01279 647206 email: jameshogg@stansted.net

John HUDSON

tel: 814489 email: johnedhudson@gmail.com

Matthew JESSUP

tel: 816591 email: franrichards@stansted.net

Joanna KAVANAGH

tel: 815157 email: jokavanagh.248@gmail.com

Ayub KHAN

tel: 815800 email: cllrkhan@uttlesford.gov.uk

John O'BRIEN

tel: 816772 email: johnobrien@stansted.net

Frances RICHARDS - VICE CHAIRMAN

tel: 812748 email: frannie.richards@gmail.com

Geoffrey SELL

tel: 815925 email: cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Daphne WALLACE-JARVIS

tel: 812259 email: dwjjwj.444@gmail.com

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Melvin CATON

tel: 813914

email: cllrcaton@uttlesford.gov.uk

Alan DEAN

tel: 813579

email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Ayub KHAN

tel: 815800

email: cllrkhan@uttlesford.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL

tel: 815925

email: sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Ray GOODING

tel: 813103 email: 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)

email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

POLICE

PCSO Nikki Morris

tel: 101(non-emergency) email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk

Community Policing Team:

braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

LIBRARIES

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

Tuesday 9am - 1pm

Wednesday 2pm - 5.30pm

Thursday 2pm - 7pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

GARDEN WASTE RECYCLING

Residents without access to the Recycling Centre for Household Waste at Saffron Walden can use a skip to dispose of garden waste, alternate Sundays, Lower Street Car Park, 12.30-4.30pm. Dates coming up:

- August 8, August 22

Alternatively sign up for Uttlesford District Council's garden waste bin collection service - uttlesford.gov.uk/gardenwaste

DEFIBRILLATORS

There are seven public access defibrillators spread around Stansted and close-by.

Call 999 to access a key-code to access the defibrillator. Instructions to use the device are easy to follow. DO NOT WAIT FOR AN AMBULANCE. Rapid use of a defibrillator saves lives. The quicker one is used after a coronary arrest, the greater the chance of survival.



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I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to Human Roots over the last year, whether that be in time, expertise, donations or love! I want to say a massive thank you from the bottom of my heart. Without your endless support and enthusiasm for our charity, we could not function. The last year has seen so many struggles through the challenges of Covid and all that it has brought. For us, it has been nonstop work. We were lucky enough to welcome eight new volunteers over the last nine months who have been instrumental in the development and inner workings that make us so great.



In 2020, I oversaw the maintenance and management of the allotment on my own, which enabled nearly 60 locals to benefit from fresh produce. This year we have had the help of an additional four volunteers on the allotment who have been amazing to work with and have made the workload so much more bearable and fun. We are hoping to be able to help more people this year by making more of our produce available to those in need, so if you know someone or are someone who needs fresh food, please get in touch via the contact form on our website. We are still looking for key volunteers to help in administrative roles, governors and skilled gardeners looking for more responsibility in the management and maintenance of the allotment. We are gearing up for 2022 and need all the help we can get. To get in touch please contact us on the volunteering section of our website. Without you there is no us!



Keiran Oliver
Tel: 07946 783039
Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 3rd August** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street. We will be discussing *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett. This moving portrait of an unusual house and the unhappy family living in it unfolds over five decades and tells a story of love, family, sacrifice and the power of place. 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

THANK YOU FROM ARTHUR

I would like to say a very big thank you to the three ladies, two men and the paramedic who helped me in Crafton Green after I had a fall there on Monday 5th July. I would also like to thank the two policemen who were the only people able to lift me off the road where I had fallen, did my shopping, and then took me home and made me a cup of tea. I am pleased to say that I have made a full recovery!



Arthur Law

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The Club has continued to seek ways to support our community despite restrictions imposed by the pandemic. In June after six months of planning, we launched our latest initiative, the Helping Herts campaign. This is by far the most ambitious project to be launched in the history of our Club and aims to help plug disastrous funding gaps in some of our most vital community services as we emerge from lockdown and also celebrate our county.



Our President Gordon Morrison making a heart sign

The project, the brainchild of Gordon Morrison and designed with his professional team, is highly focused and is being rolled out across both digital and offline channels. Our immediate ambition is to raise £500,000 by the end of 2021 to help our Hertfordshire Hospices and Citizens Advice continue their vital and valuable work. To find out how you might help, email helpinghertscampaign@gmail.com or visit www.helpingherts.com. This website gives you lots of good ideas for starting your own fundraising campaign. You may wish to become a corporate sponsor or you may prefer to help us spread the word on social media by sharing, liking, or commenting on our posts. You can find us on Facebook and Instagram - @helpingherts.



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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - POSTCARDS

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

On a recent visit to Thaxted's Tourist Information Centre, I could not resist buying their new set of postcards, featuring some of the town's well-known views. Nowadays, it is quite unusual to see postcards for sale and even rarer to receive one in the post. How times have changed.

Picture postcards became extremely popular in the UK after the introduction in 1902 of the format with a picture on the front and a divided back - half for the address and the other half for a message. Pictures were generally black and white but sometimes coloured.

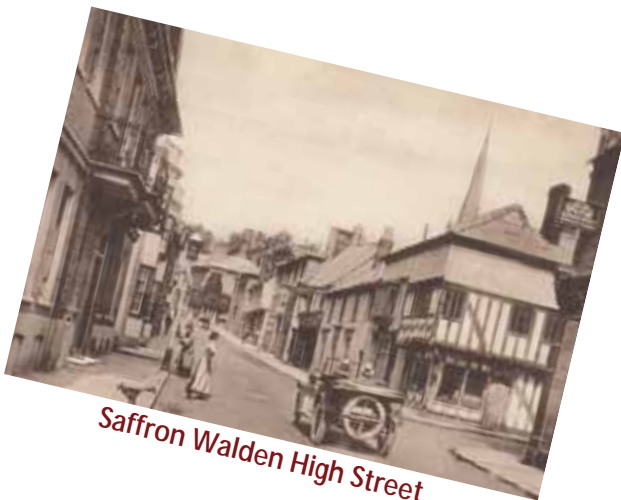
Popularity waned after the First World War but it remained customary to send postcards to family and friends from somewhere visited on holiday or a day out. That custom has now almost died out, no doubt due in part to the availability - albeit only in this century - of more immediate means of exchanging messages and photos electronically.



Great Bardfield Fountain and Church 1905



Great Hornead Windmills



Saffron Walden High Street



Linton with Railway Bridge

Many people used picture postcards for sending short messages. Until 1918 it cost only an old halfpenny to send a card; that is 480 cards for £1 (today's price is 66 pence per card). In those early days, there could be as many as five postal deliveries in a day, so it was not unreasonable to expect a reply the same day.

Almost every town and village had its own postcard or set of postcards, not just seaside towns. Within the Hundred Parishes, it seems that only one parish has never had a postcard: Flitch Green, which became a parish only in 2008. Many of those old cards have survived and often provide a revealing insight into our past and into an earlier way of life, such as buildings, roads, transport and dress.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

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We had a Zoom meeting of Forum members on 2nd July and are pleased to give an update on what we are doing. The Accountancy Practice has stayed open during the pandemic with staff working from home. The company wanted to give something back to the community during the pandemic and started a community outreach programme. It launched the Community Fund Grant Scheme in April. A grant value of £6,000 will be available until April 2022. Monthly grants of £500 will be given to individuals, businesses or communities who need financial support. For example, businesses can apply for funds which could also be used for matched funding for business grants. These extra funds will help to support businesses where needed, to get them back on their feet. The Accountancy Practice is also encouraging others in the community to help out with fundraising for particular causes. For example, the company awarded £500 to the Basingbourn Primary School's bereavement fund. An anonymous donor contacted The Accountancy Practice and matched the £500 funding which was gratefully received.



Staff from The Accountancy Practice handing over the award to the school

If you would like to apply for a grant as part of the community project, then get in touch with the company. Check for eligibility, applications and further details on www.theaccountancypractice.com. Send applications to lucille@theaccountancypractice.com.



Iris Evans
Treasurer

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

1. Brass 4. G.D.R. 6. Leave 9. Weston Super Mare
10. Rusty 11. Cadet 12. Scamp 13. Nails 15. Banjo
16. Health and safety 17. Reeve 18. End 19. Title

Down

1. Bower Anchor 2. Assassinate 3. Story 4. Gesticulate
5. Reprimanded 6. Lyric 7. Abandonment 8. Electrolyte
14. Satie 15. Boast

Pop up Family Concert

To keep the flame of live music burning, music@stansted have arranged for the **Brook Brass** wind ensemble to perform an informal concert - weather and Covid rules permitting! - on **Sunday 5th September** at 4.00pm in the gardens of St John's Church. Their programme will include music from across the centuries up to present day favourites. Everyone is welcome - just come along, bring chairs or rugs if you like, sit and enjoy an hour of live music with friends and family.

Admission is free to all, although donations to the musicians will, of course, be welcomed. Please note that toilet facilities will not be available. For more details, visit www.musicatstansted.co.uk.

See you there!



RANDOM JOTTINGS

No Mow May seemed like a good idea at the time. Leaving the lawn mower in the shed for a whole month and as a result doing our bit to provide for the pollinating insects; everybody wins right? Consequently, during the month of May our garden was satisfyingly abuzz with bees all busy doing their thing; the grass grew apace wafting gently in the breeze and lots of daisies, buttercups, dandelions and clover appeared. Everything in the garden looked lovely. It was then we noticed the obviously very happy bees had decided to stay, making a nest for themselves in the roof of our newly renovated garage. Not wanting to destroy them we paid a beekeeper to come and collect them. It took three visits for him to finally remove the last of the bees and weeks for us to clean up, returning the garage (now a usable summer room) to its former glory.



Will we be taking part in no mow May again next year? The jury is out on that one, although we have noticed a bumper crop of fruit growing on our apple and pear trees, as well as more blueberries than we have ever had on our bush before, so maybe it is worth doing it again.



Yvonne Ayres

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Nature Notes

Wildlife in the Garden

Heeding a plea from environmentalists, I did not mow the lawn during May to allow any wild flowers to grow which would attract insects and benefit wildlife generally. The buttercups and daisies put on a good show and the pigeons liked the chickweed seeds and no doubt lots of other little creatures had a good time. Apart from an impressive hay crop I was struck by the variety of wild flowers blooming in the garden, which at any other time would be called weeds.



There were over 20 different wild flowers, mostly with small insignificant blooms, but when looked at closely many can be as eye-catching as our larger garden flowers.



Above is a photo of two of these little weeds and also a photo of a pair of ladybird larvae apparently drinking dew instead of doing what they are supposed to do, which is devouring the greenfly and blackfly which are also thriving in this eco-friendly environment.



Felix

SQUARE THINGS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Snakes and Ladders
2. Eastgate
3. Beijing, Tiananmen Square
4. Half a mile
5. Trafalgar Square
6. Pattern of stars in the Pegasus constellation
7. 6th century BC (570-495 BC)
8. Memorial to Victor Emmanuel II
9. Broadway and 7th Avenue
10. Boxing ring has 4 ropes, a wrestling ring 3
11. 144
12. Hep

THEY SAID IT WOULDN'T LAST!

Pam and Doug celebrate their 70th Wedding Anniversary

We - Pamela Browne and Douglas Alcock - met while Douglas was in the Army Cadets, longing to join the Royal Marines. He was accepted and signed for seven years' service. We wanted to get married; our parents thought we should wait but we persuaded them to agree. Douglas also had to have permission from the Marines. Because Douglas was going abroad, we married in the registry office in Colchester on Saturday 7th August 1951.



Douglas was posted to Malta and Egypt where there were problems; we sent letters to each other every day. In 1958 he left the Royal Marines and joined Essex Police. After training he spent the first few years in Colchester, then in Harlow as a dog handler and finally Stansted. We had a police house in High Lane. We liked Stansted very much and still do. We bought a house in Croasdaile Road and still live there. We have a lovely family: two daughters, four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Pamela Alcock





RSPB STORT VALLEY

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

Swifts will have already left for Africa by mid-August. Swallows (see photo below) and house martins hang around a little longer and can be seen on telephone wires, meeting up in groups ready to migrate, applying the adage 'there is safety in numbers'. It is harder to spot some of our shy all-year-round residents, such as the dunnock and wren, hidden in hedges and thickets.



Many people put food out for birds, but fewer provide a regular supply of clean water. If you keep a bird bath well topped up with water, you will tempt birds out for early morning bathing as well as provide much-needed drinking water in dry weather. It is a good idea to raise your birdbath off the ground, and place it in the open, giving birds a clear view of danger. Keeping a bird bath clean helps to prevent birds catching diseases; you should clean it regularly and change the water. A layer of algae, dead leaves or bird droppings will soon build up, so give the bath a thorough clean every week or so. Scrub the sides and bottom to remove algae and other dirt. You can use dilute household disinfectants, but make sure that you rinse the bath out thoroughly to remove any traces of chemicals. There are also non-toxic products on the market which can be used to clean bird baths.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk/club/stansted-fc

Our first team's 2021-22 league season kicks off on **Saturday 31st July**, followed by the FA Cup Extra Preliminary Round scheduled for **Saturday 7th August**. With the FA finally completing the new National League pyramid system, we now have an extra three teams added to the Essex Senior League thus making the season a 38-game league. Add to this various cup competitions and we could well be playing over 50 games between August and April. Therefore during the summer, the emphasis has been on building a stronger squad of players, not only to replace those that

have moved on, but also to be available to face the challenge on what looks like a really competitive season ahead. However, home supporters will have to wait until September to see the team in action as we play all our scheduled league and cup games away from Hargrave Park in August.

The news on our Over 45s Veterans team is that although their season does not begin till September, there have been some changes to the off-field set up of the team. Gary Cook remains as Chairman, a new joint team management team has been appointed, consisting of Julian Stanley and Tim Carey, and team captain Andy Thorpe has taken on the additional duties of players' coach. With a new sponsorship deal securing a new kit, the team is set up to take on the challenge of winning the league outright which has been denied to them these past two seasons. Please keep an eye on our social media sites for up-to-date fixture news.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.bowlsengland.com/club/stansted

We have been really pleased to welcome some potential new members to our Club over the last few weeks, and hope they have all enjoyed having a go at outdoor bowls. Our coach in training has been busy, helping new bowlers to get to grips with the basics, and hopes the guinea pig experience has not been too painful. We are hoping that before long the newcomers will boost our membership numbers and feel confident enough to participate in our weekend friendlies. The Club is suffering a bit at the moment from reduced numbers due to injuries and more important things in life like catching up with the family! The leagues are going well, notably for the Wednesday North West Essex League team. I am afraid the ladies are still coming second more often than not, but are undaunted.

The green is playing well, despite a few issues with leather-jackets (the larvae of daddy long legs) which eat the roots before emerging and leave little mounds like mini worm casts. The maintenance of the green is a never-ending job and we are really grateful for the hard work of our green team, which includes repairing and maintaining the Club's machines that keep the green in good condition throughout the season. We are hoping that, by the time this is published, we will have been able to re-open our bar and get ourselves back to the new normal, whatever that looks like. For us this will include continuing with the increased hygiene measures and staying outside whenever possible, so the outdoor furniture will continue to get good use. Luckily bowls is one of the easiest sports to participate in safely.

Jeanette Mansell
Secretary
Tel: 07967 033924
Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com

The President's Cup

Congratulations to Sandra Ayres and Daphne Lunnon who fought a very close final on Saturday 26th June, winning 6-4 against Jon Budd and Val Ashwood. Marta Hensall and David Fletcher won the consolation round, beating Michael Wilde and Cathy Brenner 4-1. It was a really enjoyable day; thanks to everyone who played and special thanks to Debbie Lane for organising the event.



Left to right: Sandra Ayres, Daphne Lunnon, Garth Lane (President), Val Ashwood and Jon Budd

Mix and Match Finals

Mixed doubles: Carol Cook and Tudor Owen beat Chris Bailey and Paul Balas; consolation winners were Dina McDonald and Mike Ashwood.

Ladies' doubles: Marta Hensall and Lisa King beat Daphne Lunnon and Debbie Lane; consolation winners were Diane Brown and Caroline Mott.

Men's doubles: John Nichol and Neil Basten beat Garth Lane and Adrian Oliver; the consolation winners were Paul Balas and Mike Ashwood.

The Club holds many tournaments throughout the year for ladies, men, mixed and juniors, including some annual cup competitions; we also have several teams playing in the local leagues. If you would like to join us, please go to the membership page on our website for further details.

Rusty Rackets!

Drop-in sessions, aimed at beginner level adults, Sundays 9.00am-10.00am. Free for members and only £2 for visitors, so please come along if you are feeling a bit nervous about launching straight into a normal Club session.

Coaching

Qualified coach Ollie Toms offers junior tournaments, tennis camps and group or individual coaching for juniors and adults. Please contact him on 07917 652014 or visit his website: olliestennis.co.uk for more information.

Ladies' night

The next ladies only session is on **9th August** from 6.30pm.

Fiona Kelly
Publicity Officer

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

At the halfway point of the league season the 1st XI are sitting on top of the Herts and Essex Border League Premier Division. The team have won eight out of nine matches and are just ahead of Nazeing Common and Matching Green. Rory McGurk has been scoring a lot of runs and Grant Ward has been taking many wickets. The 2nd XI are sitting mid-table in Division 2 and many juniors are really performing well which is hugely encouraging for the future of the Club. The juniors are playing matches at both Stansted House and Molehill Green and enjoying themselves when the weather allows. The Club would like to thank the team managers, Andrew Mackinlay, Ollie Patmore, Paul Walton and of course parents who are helping. The Club is running a cricket camp during the summer holidays and a surprise local outing for our All Stars. The Club defeated the President's XI for the first time in a while, with the young Archie Racey scoring his first hundred for the team; well done Archie, hopefully the first of many. Ed Stabb has been successful with his Essex age group trials and will represent the county later in the season.

T20 matches followed by a BBQ will be held on 5th and 19th August with our sponsors Russell Property and Nockolds LLP. All in all, the summer is going really well although the Covid 19 restrictions will generally remain in place for the rest of the season. Oddly a lot of members are going around the Club singing *Sweet Caroline*! Something to do with a successful England football team - hopefully.



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



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

After ten rounds of Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) cricket, the 1st XI have had three wins, three defeats, four matches lost to rain and are fifth in Division 1. The 2nd XI have had two wins and five defeats and are seventh in Division 3. In the Davies Cup we beat Hockerill and now face Takeley in Round 2. To mark the end of the Juniors' season there will be a social event and barbecue on **Friday 30th July** in the pavilion after that final training session. To mark the end of the HEBL season there will be a social event in the pavilion on **Saturday 28th August** after the conclusion of the match. Notable recent batting performances include Ben Sammons (85, 51), Paul Armitage (76 no), Jeeva Subramaniam (66 no), and John Ayres (50 no). Senior home fixtures for August are:

Sat 7 th	13:00	League Div 1	1 st XI v Hockerill I
Sun 8 th	13:30	Friendly	Sun XI v Little Bardfield
Sat 14 th	13:00	League Div 3	2 nd XI v Thorley II
Sat 21 st	13:00	League Div 1	1 st XI v Nazeing Common II
Sat 28 th	13:00	League Div 3	2 nd XI v Albury
Sun 29 th	11:30	Friendly	Sun XI v President's XI



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	JKM Scaffolding 30			Dunmow Ironing Parlour 18
	Uttlesford District Council 34		Jeweller	John Wilson 16
	Vester Property Services IBC		Legal	Herts and Essex Wills 12
Carpentry	Canfield Carpentry 34			Lever & Co Solicitors 12
	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery 34		Leaflet Delivery	Leaflet Delivery UK 8
Chiropody	R Handford 4		Motor Repairs	Absolute Vehicle Services (AVS) 8
	Julie Golden 4			D Bonney & Sons 8
Cleaning	Clear Ovens 18			Essex Autospray 8
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning 18		Music Lessons	Carr (Piano, Organ, Singing) 16
	House Clearance Specialists 24			Hamilton (Singing) 16
	Shine Cleaning Services 18		Osteopathy	Quendon Osteopathy 4
	Zest Window Cleaning 18			The Osteopath 4
Community & Care	First Aid Training Stansted 18		Pilates	Hazel Williams 4
	Hargrave House Care Home 6		Painting	Ada Decorating 26
	Hearing Help 6		Decorating	Brown's Painting & Decorating 26
	Helpline 6		& Plastering	David Duncan Decorating 26
	Mountfitchet House Care Home 6			Lesley Anne (Painting) 26
Computing & Office	MCM Computer Services 12			MWR Interiors 26
	Taylor Computer Service 12			Ray on the Hill 26
Dance	Graham School of Dance 16			T F Plastering 26
Dental	Castle Dental 4		Personal	Energy Path Nutritional Therapy 4
Education & Children	Birchanger Butterflies Nursery 16		Services	Fresh Leaf (Hypnotherapy) 6
	Howe Green House School 16			Ruth Ripsher 1:1 Diet Consultant 4
	Rainbow Pre-School 16			Stansted Psychotherapy 6
	Tuition (ages 4 - 11) 16		Plumbing & Heating	Harpers Plumbing & Heating OBC
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services 24			JDW Gas Heating Specialist 24
	CK Electrical 24			Jones (Plumbing & Heating) 24
Estate Agent	Murdochs IBC			M Lloyd and Son 24
Financial	Mansell & Co Accountants IBC			Newman's Home Services 24
Furniture & Restoration	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs IFC			Orion Heating 24
	Furniture by Design 34			P Knight Plumbing 24
	Peter Worby Antiques Restoration 34			Stansted Gas Services 24
Fitness	Flexible Strength 4		Printing	Chogou Printing & Embroidery 16
Food & Drink	Bear & Eden 12		& Design	CZ Design & Print 6
	Hadham Brewery OBC			Zarajane Ferrier 6
	The Dog & Duck 12		Property	Do-It-4U 26
Garden	D Honour & Son (Landscapes) OBC		Maintenance	Fairweather Windows IFC
Services	Illuminating Gardens 28			Finch and Son OBC
	Greenscroft Fencing 28			Herts & Essex Window Doctor 26
	Langthorns Plantery 28		Retailers	Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts) IFC
	Mowtivated 28			Squires (Gifts, Plants and Cards) IBC
	Outerspace 34		Soft	Neil Smith Interiors 24
	The Secret Gardener 28		Furnishings	Stort Blinds IFC
Funeral	Daniel Robinson & Sons 12		& Sewing	Teach me to Sew 16
Services	J Day & Son (Stonemason) 12		Sport	Golf World 10
	MV Memorials 12		& Leisure	Stansted Social Club 10
Hairdressing	Barnet Fayre 8		Tree Surgeons	All Aspects Tree Services 28
	Claire's Gents Hairstylist IFC			Uppercut Trees 28
	Lino Thomas OBC			



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