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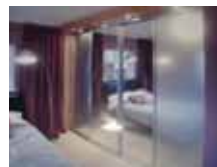
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Front cover:

Two Link directors and their husbands on the Recreation Ground celebrating the easing of lockdown

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 nearly 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.

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

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EDITORIAL



The happy picture on the front cover of this month's issue was taken on the first day when people were able to meet outdoors in groups of up to six; that was 29th March. Many thanks to the four people who agreed to take part: Yvonne and Stuart Ayres, as well as Catherine and Alan Dean. Both Yvonne and Catherine are part of The Link team and you will have seen their contributions to the recent *Meet the Team* articles. As I write, the next stage of lockdown easing has occurred, with many much-loved and sorely missed businesses, gyms and churches re-opening. So there are many reasons to be cheerful, and the smiles on the cover reflect the optimism we are feeling as we come slowly out of this nightmare.

However, there were still not many events to discuss in this month's issue, which is why it is rather skinny, with fewer pages than we would like. This does give our contributors the space and opportunity to deal with more complex issues such as the refusal to allow Bloor Homes to desecrate Pennington Lane; for details, see page 9. Another complex issue is that of mental health, and it is great to see this being given so much attention nationally and locally, such as the *Let's Talk, Stansted!* article on page 5. Have a wonderful spring, one and all.



www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Stansted Sunflowers Fundraiser

For anyone who took part in last year's sunflower competition, you will know how delectable it is to sow your own seeds and see them thrive into massive, beautiful blooms. We managed to raise over £500 in seed and plant sales. This year we have put together over 500 individual packets, each containing 300-500 seeds. Check out our Facebook page for the locations of the seed packets. If you have been lucky enough to come across them, you will have seen that you have access to seed-sowing video tutorials via our website to help you get them started at home in pots. We are now warm enough to be starting them outdoors which is an even easier process. Look at our website or social media for further tips and techniques for the rest of the process. All we are asking is that if you find a lucky seed pack, you donate to our cause! We are asking for £1 per packet which will help pay for garden materials over the summer to enable us to continue growing food, so please support Human Roots Community (HRC) today.

We are also actively looking for new trustees to help us shape the future of HRC. If you have strong leadership skills, are business focused, from a charity background or are passionate about sustainable food growing, education, and climate issues, then we are the charity you have been looking for. Please go to the website and sign up. Be sure to access our monthly newsletter to get your gardening tips, regular updates about what we are up to and our monthly recipes with seasonal vegetables.



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

As each day lengthens, trees, shrubs, plants and bulbs are bursting into life. The buds and blossom on the trees are a sign that spring is in full flow; some tree flowers are just ornamental whereas fruit tree blossom promises rewards in the late summer or autumn. The birds in the hedgerows and garden shrubs are getting ready for the nesting season, flying hither and thither with twigs etc as their intricate nests are built camouflaged by the new growth.

In the garden, many of the earlier daffodils have gone over, but tulips are taking their place. From origins in the Ottoman Empire to fame in the Netherlands, this is a flower that has remained popular for centuries. Tulip flowers come in all shapes and colours, some like wine glasses others like a ballerina's tutu. Starting to fill those blank spaces are the perennial plants. In addition, it is now time to start sowing annual seeds, one-season wonders that will give a splash of colour, most of which are loved by bees and butterflies and can be cut and brought inside to be enjoyed. This is also the time of year to start sowing your summer crops. Many people grew their own food for the first time last summer, which led to a seed shortage in some parts of the country. Enjoy an afternoon out at a nursery or garden centre and buy your seeds. A word of warning though: with the unpredictable British weather, be wary of late frosts before sowing or planting out. Please take care everyone and stay safe until this nasty virus has been beaten; we will let everyone know as soon as we get the go-ahead to reconvene meetings.



Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144



MANUDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.manudenprimary.co.uk

As the Spring Term finished at the end of March, it was great to have all the children back at school and we certainly packed a huge amount into those final three weeks. Our last week started with a virtual PE session for our Year 5 and 6 pupils led by Hallam Play, a team of young coaches from Sheffield Hallam University. The active session gave the children an opportunity to develop their skills in familiar sports such as football, hockey and cricket as well as trying some new sports such as boxing. During the session, they were joined virtually by some elite athletes in each sport, including an Olympic swimmer and a GB hockey player - a truly inspirational morning.



The Year 1 and 2 children have been taking on the role of palaeontologists as part of their dinosaur learning. The children took part in a fossil dig and had great fun as they pretended to hunt for fossils that they were able to carefully extract from chocolate chip cookies using a cocktail stick and a brush. The Year 3 and 4 children were enthusiastic curators of their Egyptian Museum and showed off some fantastic interactive exhibits. The museum included flood alarms for the River Nile, created in Design Technology. The children designed and made their alarms, considered potential problems with their designs and how to overcome them. Much fun was had when the alarms were tested! What a great way to end a busy term.



Manuden Primary School needs you. 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 more information, please contact the school office.

Marnie Tait
Deputy Headteacher
Tel: 813370

Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next Zoom meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 4th May** at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Imagine a library, where the shelves go on forever and every book provides a chance to try another life you could have lived, to see how things would be if you had made other choices ... This intriguing book, which celebrates life's possibilities, was the winner of the Goodreads Choice Award for Fiction 2020; we will have to see if we agree with that choice! 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

DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org



As you may know by now, we are open and boy, are our animals loving seeing all our lovely visitors or what?! They are all having such a super time being fed and having a fuss made of them, so please keep on coming. We are open every day 9.00am-3.00pm except Wednesdays and Sundays; you need to book in advance via our website. At the farm you can visit all our animals, including the babies and those in the small animals' enclosure. You can also have fun on the play equipment, play in our den building area and have a splash in the stream, visit our old friends the horses and explore our woodland walk - there is such a lot to do, so make sure you don't miss out.




We have lambs, kid goats, chicks, piglets and ducklings, so do not leave it too long as they are all growing fast. The last year has been really tough, so if you would like to help, you can do by going to the website below:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-920

Anything you can give is massively appreciated. If you need eggs, we have lots. Pop by and buy ours, they are delicious. Very best wishes and thank you for your continued support.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973



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LET'S TALK, STANSTED!

www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

Mental Health Awareness Week

During this pandemic, many of us have found our mental health has suffered, or we have seen a loved one struggle. For Mental Health Awareness Week, 10th-16th May, it is time to step up the fight for mental health in our community.



Organised by the Mental Health Foundation, the theme for this year is *Nature*; an opportunity to open our eyes to the power of nature and its benefits on our mental health. We are running several week-long activities that you can get involved with.

***Race to Rungis*: Village-wide Challenge to raise awareness about Mental Health**

A good walk, jog or run can do wonders for your mental wellbeing. It improves self-perception, self-esteem, mood and sleep quality; and it reduces stress, anxiety and fatigue. It is also a great opportunity to catch up with friends and family. The village is twinned with Rungis, near Paris, which is a round trip of approximately 550 miles. We invite you to join our virtual race to Rungis and back, running or walking at your own pace to clock up miles. It will be a village effort and is for all ages so whether you contribute 1km or set yourself a target for the week, every step counts. Sign up and find more details on our website.

Do something positive to improve your Mental Health

Evidence suggests there are five steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing. Trying these steps could help you feel more positive and able to get the most out of life:

- Connect with other people. Good relationships are important for your mental wellbeing. Take time each day to be with your family, friends or neighbours, even if it is just a phone call
- Be physically active. Exercise is good for your body, but it also improves your mental health. Whatever your choice of exercise the main thing is to move every day
- Learn new skills, which will boost self-confidence and raise your self-esteem; and it is fun!
- Give something back. Research suggests that acts of giving and kindness create positive feelings and a sense of purpose and self-worth. Try to do some small acts of kindness towards other people each week, or larger ones like volunteering in the local community
- Pay attention to the present moment by being mindful of your thoughts and feelings, your body and the world around you. It can positively change the way you feel about life and how you approach challenges.

***Nature: See it, Snap it*: Photography Competition for all ages**

Use your phone or camera to capture what you love about nature and how it benefits you. Send us your favourite images of whatever makes you smile and helps you feel connected to nature. Submit your photos by joining the *Let's Talk, Stansted!* Facebook Group and posting your images or email them to me and we will add them to the competition. We will announce awards towards the end of May. Everyone is welcome to get in touch with our team whatever your situation or state of mind. Throughout the summer we will be launching new opportunities for people to meet, talk and share worries and burdens. For details and links to the weekly calls, visit our website, join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/letstalkstansted or email me.

Richard Haywood
Tel: 07794 268208

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org

BIRTHDAY ON THE BENCH

Felicitations to you my gentle readers. Good Friday was my birthday this year. I spent the magnificent morning on the bench enraptured by the majestic swooping of our red kite community, soaring on the currents whilst the smaller birds (breakfast) fearfully and aerially 'legged it' in the other direction. My friends who live close to the bountiful bench presented me with a sublimely succulent gin and tonic which I voraciously consumed, delighting in its botanical beatitudes and warmth. The hackneyed cliché of never work with children or animals is a misnomer benchwise. The young people of our village are delightful. Their smiles and waves melt any icy tendrils of despair that I might have been feeling. And guess what ... ? Easter Sunday, a delightful lady approached me and said her young son who was in her car, asked her to give me a little Easter egg! A beautiful and heartfelt gift wrapped in pink foil. Priceless! A big woof to all our captivating canines in all their shapes, varieties and temperaments and especially to Harry who always comes over for a chat. As my latest literary sojourn comes to a close, there is a succulent *sussuration 'pon the breeze*. It whispers 'Monday, Monday the pubs are opening'. My village family regale me frequently with this news and we all luxuriate in the hope that this brings. Let's all raise the cup of cheer to our publicans who have worked long and tirelessly for this glorious moment. Stansted Mountfitchet I love you. We've got this! Stay strong, stay safe.



Kris

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT HEALTH WALKS

Although we are allowed now to walk in larger groups as a health walk, I do not think it is practical to try and do so in this area at the moment. I have told Lucy Fish, the health improvement officer, that I no longer feel able to lead this group. We shall need another leader in order to continue at a later date. Let me know if you feel you could do this and I can pass your name on. Meanwhile keep walking with your friends in small groups and enjoy!



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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

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Many of us wait anxiously for the outcome of the recent public inquiry into a possible increase in the passenger cap at Stansted Airport, yet the local community's love-hate relationship with Stansted Airport is only the latest in a series of significant aviation events that have occurred within the Hundred Parishes.

In a field at Standon Green End in the parish of Thundridge, a monument marks the spot where Italian balloonist Vincenzo Lunardi landed in 1784 after completing the first manned flight in England. He took off from London beneath a balloon filled with hydrogen. In 1913, Bentfield Hucks was the first Englishman to loop-the-loop in his Bleriot aeroplane. He was born in 1884 in Bentfield Cottage, Stansted and thus acquired his unusual forename.

Duxford airfield, now the site of Imperial War Museum, Duxford, first became operational in World War I. Some of its buildings, constructed by German prisoners-of-war, still stand. In 1938, Duxford was the first airfield to take delivery of Spitfire fighter planes.



Frank Whittle flew regularly from here while he was developing ideas that eventually led to the invention of the turbojet engine just before the end of WWII. Altogether, twelve military airfields operated

within the Hundred Parishes during WWII. Andrewsfield, straddling the parish boundary between The Salings and Stebbing, was the first American-built base in Europe, becoming operational in 1943. Stansted was another American-built airfield. Thousands of Americans were based in this area; many never saw home again.

Many of us have enjoyed the relative peace that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to our skies, in particular discovering the joy of walking in the countryside. It is sad that it has taken so many deaths to remind us of the quality of life that exists right here, without the need to fly.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



www.southmillarts.co.uk

We are thrilled to have opened our doors once again to our wonderful customers and children's classes. The Malting's Bar is now open Mondays to Saturdays 10.00am-7.00pm for customers to enjoy takeaway drinks and treats, as well as outdoor table service. From **Monday 17th May**, we will be ready to re-open the building for the public to enjoy the Malting's Bar indoors, the Museum, our cinema, listen to

live music in the garden and for the remainder of our adult classes to return. Please check our website and social media pages for the latest information. We are planning an amazing programme of shows, films and holiday crafts for the May and June Half Term, including a socially-distanced performance of *Morgan & West: Fantastic Family Magic Spectacular!* on **Thursday 3rd June**. We cannot wait to see all our customers; we have missed you, and are excited for the fun to begin.

For further details on our social distancing and Covid-19 policies, please see our website. As with everything this year, all dates and shows are subject to change and we will be following the latest Government guidelines and advice at the time.

Megan Langer
Tel: 710200



ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Spring Walkies Sunday 23rd May

Our Covid-19 postponed 5k pooch parade will be taking place at the Hospice at last. More than 200 walkers and their furry friends are expected to support this fundraising event. Emma Broadbent, organiser, said: "This year marks the 15th time the Hospice has hosted the event and for the first time ever it will be taking place in the Spring. The advantage of postponing the event is that we will hopefully be swapping muddy paws and cold weather for sunny spring conditions. The 2020 walk saw 160 walkers and their dogs take part, and we are hoping that even more people will register for 2021. We will be following the current Covid-19 secure measures. Everyone is welcome to join us on this rural route across the Essex countryside whether you are a dog owner or not. Remember to wear suitable footwear as the route is on grass paths. It is such a great event; you would be barking mad to miss it!"

We are again having our popular Cutest Canine competition and are calling on local pet-owners to enter their favourite photograph of their pet to win a hamper of doggy goodies and the chance to officially start the event. Entries are due by noon on Friday 16th April and entrants must have registered for the Walkies event in order to be eligible for the competition. Voting for the winner is from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd April on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Registration: adults £10, children £5 and a family of four £27.50 which includes free soup, dog rosette and certificates for children. Walkers can also sign up on the day. Please note that the route is not suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. This year's event is sponsored by Forest Veterinary Centre, Epping. For more information, call 773754, email: emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk or visit our website.



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Rebecca Cussens
Communications Manager



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CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Margaret Silvester who celebrated her 90th birthday on 29th March. As this date also happened to be when we were allowed to socialise in our gardens again, Margaret was able to meet with a number of her church friends who arrived in small groups throughout the warm, sunny afternoon.



The photograph shows Margaret about to cut the lovely birthday cake which was organised by Selina Rankin.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

So, we are almost there! Assuming that there are no changes to the current Government guidelines we are planning to reopen on **Monday 17th May**. We cannot wait to meet up again. We have been working hard behind the scenes as we had a large amount of water damage due to a burst pipe. The toilets and some of the flooring have had to be either redecorated or replaced.

Entertainment will be starting again on **Saturday 26th June** and we have a great line-up for you. We may be adding more dates depending on availability of your favourite bands. The Saturday dates for your diaries so far:

26 th June	Robbie Williams Tribute
31 st July	The Expletives
7 th August	Bee Gees Tribute
11 th September	Complete Madness
25 th September	Souled Organisation
6 th November	Mick Hucknall Tribute
20 th November	Afterlife
27 th November	Cher Tribute
18 th December	Robbie Williams Tribute

See you on the 17th!



Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 812992

Email: eatmorestilton@gmail.com



www.savestansted.co.uk,

Refused, Bloor Homes Planning at Bentfield Green

By now, many of you will know that Uttlesford District Council issued a planning refusal notice in March to Bloor Homes for their proposed development on Pennington Lane at Bentfield Green. The refusal was very comprehensive, citing various conflicts with planning policies including things such as: inappropriate design layout and scale in relation to the character of the setting and surrounding areas, not representing sustainable development, detrimental impact on the Bentfield Green conservation area, loss of open countryside outside the development limits and of agricultural land, no health impact assessment, insufficient information for the Highway Authority to determine acceptability and harmful urbanisation of the site. This is a great outcome by any measure, and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in making this happen and to all of you who wrote to object. There were over 1500 objections which is unprecedented. Be sure, your efforts were critical to achieving this.

I would also like to thank our Councillors at all levels who have given us and the community their unwavering support. There is no doubt that the concerted effort by all involved has helped to ensure a refusal by the planning authorities. Bloor Homes have issued a notice of Appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. If this appeal is determined to be 'valid' by the Planning Inspectorate, then Save Stansted Village (SSV) along with the Stansted Parish Council will apply for 'Rule 6' status, whereby we will request to be an active party in the inquiry, as was the case during the Taylor Wimpey inquiry in 2013. Rest assured, we will do everything in our power to achieve the same outcome. The timing of any Inquiry is yet to be determined, but is likely to be in the third quarter of 2021.

What can you do to help? Please keep in touch with us through our website, Facebook (Save Stansted) and look out for any other communications. To fight this campaign, funds are vital, so anything you can spare would greatly help. Funds are managed through the Parish Council, and online transfers can be made directly to Stansted Parish Council, Sort Code 20-36-98, Account Number 20147168. Cash or cheques made payable to *Stansted Parish Council* can be sent or hand-delivered to SSV Campaign, c/o Stansted Parish Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ. Tel: 813214. Thank you once again for all your continued support, both moral and financial.

James Hogg

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 15th May

Ugley Village Hall

10.00am-12 noon

**We hope to have all our stalls back now,
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*If you would like to go on our email list to be updated
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IN MEMORIAM

Martin West

22nd September 1953–14th March 2021



As many of you know, my dad Martin West passed away peacefully on Sunday 14th March at around 3.00pm. We have received such an outpouring from everyone who knew him and were just as fond of him as we were. Thank you everyone for your kind words and memories of him. It is so lovely that he is remembered as he was, a very kind and sincere man who got the whole room laughing.

Martin battled with Alzheimer's Disease for the past ten years or so, and although it made things hard, he never lost his warm spirit and care for people. He is remembered by us not only as a man of laughter and fun, but a gentle and comforting presence. When you needed to get something off your chest he would listen patiently and sit with you companionably in whatever you were going through. We will always miss him.

Faye West

Martin was a regular visitor to The Place on the Hill at the Free Church and The Coffee Pot at St John's Church. His merry banter and spontaneous singing will be deeply missed by us all, once we are able to re-open. He spoke fondly of his career with BT working on the telecommunications cables running through the numerous tunnels under London. Past readers of The Link will recall the many articles he wrote sharing his passion for astronomy and space travel. Our sincere condolences go to Sylvia and family.

Marion and Mike Dyer



www.stopstanstedexpansion.com

The Stansted Airport Public Inquiry to consider plans for further airport expansion ended on Friday 12th March after eight weeks of evidence hearings and cross-examinations. The panel of three inspectors will decide whether to approve the proposals, and a decision is expected in around three months. On the first day, Uttlesford District Council (UDC)'s barrister declared that Manchester Airport's Group (MAG)'s proposals were acceptable, subject only to certain

timid conditions. It was an extraordinary start to UDC's defence of the decision made by its Planning Committee in January 2020, by a margin of 10 votes to nil, to refuse permission for the expansion proposals. UDC failed to defend the decision of its own Planning Committee.

This Inquiry might not have been necessary if UDC had supported SSE's call, three years ago, for the Secretary of State for Transport to deal with the Stansted Airport Planning Application nationally. Instead, UDC insisted on dealing with the application itself, despite its limited resources and expertise in this area. UDC submitted evidence to the Inquiry on just four topics and for each topic it concluded that MAG's proposals were acceptable. By contrast, SSE's team of specialists, supported by external expert consultants and two of the country's top planning barristers, presented comprehensive evidence to the Inquiry on 11 separate topics. The result was that MAG directed most of its firepower at trying to counter the SSE evidence, rather than UDC's evidence. SSE Chairman Peter Sanders commented "We all realise that this is a David and Goliath battle, but it is important to remember that it was David who won that battle, and he did so by giving it his best shot. That is exactly what SSE has done on this occasion. We must now wait to see whether the powerful evidence that we have submitted will be enough to win the day."

Campaign Office
Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

STANSTED EVENING WI



We had some visitors for our Zoom meeting in March: 17 members from the WI in Cornwall, whom we had joined in February, members from Elsenham, and our speaker James Haddow who lives on the south coast. James describes himself as *the taxi-driver poet* and for more than 16 years he was reciting his poems to his passengers. Unfortunately, he had a seizure so he had to stop driving, but he has carried on writing and performing his poetry wherever he can. He has written over 1,400 poems: loving, topical, raunchy and amusing; he recited examples of them all. He has written several books, which I imagine is easier than reciting to passengers. It was a very entertaining and enjoyable evening. We have a talk on the life of Agatha Christie booked via Zoom for May. I wonder what she would think of the frequent appearances of her famous detective Hercule Poirot on TV.

The future of our WI was up for discussion as both our President and Secretary wish to retire having held the posts for some time. They have agreed to carry on for one more year, for which we are very grateful. It has not been easy during this last year for the Committee to function and keep members informed and together as a group; but they have done remarkably well and we thank them for it. Our WI was formed 60 years ago, in October 1960; it would be sad to have it suspended after all this time. New members are welcome and although we are not able to meet in person at the moment you would be able to enjoy our Zoom meetings and hopefully we can be in the Day Centre soon on the second Thursday of each month.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



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BRAIN TRAINING

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The compass point fixations activate lots of things, but particularly the part of the balance organs or vestibular system which helps regulate blood pressure and heart rate: blood pressure should rise when we stand up to prevent dizziness, and the heart rate should respond rapidly and adequately to changes in activity level. If you are prone to dizziness when standing or your heart ceases to pound only slowly, this is a good drill to work on.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Appropriate Names

After a year of lockdowns I do not think that I am alone in finding it quite difficult to keep track of the days and weeks. I really thought I had lost the plot when, back in March I read an article in a national newspaper headed *Boot will step into Foot's shoes at Retailer* (surely it should have been the other way round?). The opening sentence, *Terry Boot will step into the position of finance chief at Shoe Zone after his predecessor Peter Foot walked away from the role* had me checking the date, convinced it was an April Fool's joke! Confirmation that we were still in March meant that the names must be genuine and a pure coincidence that both men have surnames that fitted (forgive the pun) the company's merchandise so aptly.

A few other people come to mind, whose names suit their professions like the renowned romantic poet, William Wordsworth and the youngest member of the England 1966 world cup winning football team, Alan Ball. In the world of horticulture, Adrian Bloom is a well-known nurseryman turned author, photographer and lecturer; Bob Flowerdew, TV and radio presenter is an organic gardener and Pippa Greenwood, a plant pathologist, is a regular panellist on *Gardeners' Question Time*. Lastly, my favourite spotted a few years ago in a church graveyard is this inscription from an old weatherworn headstone, *In Memory of Gabriel Song, Choirmaster and Organist*. What a wonderfully appropriate name!

Loki



The last year has been a challenging time for all of us, but through it all Helpline has managed to *Keep Calm and Carry On* and continued to provide help for Stansted residents. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of those of our volunteers still able to continue under the restrictions, we fulfilled most of the requests received in the past 12 months. Now there is light at the end of a very dark, long tunnel we hope that more of our volunteers will be able to return to Helpline, meaning we can fulfil more requests for assistance. If you are in need of help with transport to medical appointments, shopping or collection of prescriptions and no other transport is available please give us a call on 07704 553727. Our phone line is open 9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).



Yvonne Ayres
Helpline Organiser

ST MARY'S CHURCH



The Churches Conservation Trust have instructed me that the Covid risks from the books in church are minimal, therefore I have now restarted the visitor book and welcome you to sign in if you do visit the church. Footfall in church and the counting of signatures is so very important to us.

As of Monday 12th April, we have resumed Champing for our fourth season. To start with it will be for single households only but as restrictions allow, we will invite multiple households to stay and experience this very special building. There are many Champing churches throughout the country with partner churches also included in the list. Check out the Champing website for lists of locations and costs. Also, please don't forget our lovely theatre group coming to us on **Saturday 21st August** at 1.00pm to perform *The Secret Garden*. I believe there will be animatronic puppets too; what a treat for us all! Looking forward to welcoming you all back to St Mary's.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

My husband loves reading from joke books or articles about fascinating facts; do you know anyone who does that? If you live with someone like this, I am sure you may be a little relieved by some easing of the restrictions to get out and avoid such hobbies! However, in many ways this desire to get lost in the humour or surprise is something really positive at times like this. Inspired by my husband I thought I would have a look at some fascinating facts about the month of May to make these next few weeks feel a bit more exciting, and I found this month is quite *a-MAY-zing*.

1. May used to be called the *month of three milkings* because you could milk your cows three times a day.
2. May is a pretty good month for US Presidents. Every other month of the year, at least one US President has died, but never in May!
3. May is pretty exclusive when it comes to days of the week. No other month in one single year starts or finishes on the same weekday as May. Basically, if 1st May is Friday, and 31st May is Sunday, no other months in the year will start or end on Friday or Sunday!

We as Christians have just celebrated Easter but we do not just have to hang around now for Harvest or Christmas; there are lots of other *amazing* things we can learn and discover to keep us going daily. So, in these unusual times keep searching; look for the joy, dig a little deeper and be encouraged by the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."



Captain Megan Kervin
Salvation Army



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Worship in the church

It was wonderful to be back in the church for our Good Friday service of dramatised readings and recorded music. Our joyful Easter Sunday service was led by Rev'd Stuart and Brenda Veitch, pictured here with the beautiful display created by Brenda.



Services will continue at 10.30am each Sunday, in the church and on Zoom. 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

All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
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Email: revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

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

Our 9.30am Holy Communion service has now resumed in the church and is also available on Zoom.

Kathy West



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the March draw:

£100 No 146 Yvonne Ayres
£50 No 12 Judy Lloyd
£25 No 219 Ray Smith

The draw for May will be held on **30th May** 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

From St John's Registers

March

Funeral 22nd

Ruby Margaret Lawrence,, age 97 -
at St John's followed by burial at
Stansted Cemetery



Contact

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

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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

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

Lettings Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
Email: yvonne-wood@outlook.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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(*First Sunday of every month)
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Wednesday Noon Confessions 12.30pm Mass
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WWW.BEARANDEDEN.COM

This time last year, the gardens were closed to volunteers until further notice, but this year we are catching up on lost work over the winter and looking forward to the completion of the restoration of the balustrade in time for our Open Day on **Sunday 23rd May**. In April the daffodils were a glorious sight in the glade, but also where they have sprung up uninvited in lots of other corners of the gardens. When they have finished flowering, some will have to be moved to better places and to make way for a new path in the lime wood; but we are confident that dividing them when we move them will make them stronger still for next year. At our May Open Day it will be the Italian garden that will be the star of the show, with the restored balustrade finally providing a proper surround to the first waterlilies of the season. The lupins will be in full bloom in the outer borders and the helianthemums will be ablaze along the inner borders.



We will also be celebrating the Countess and her animals. We often mention her monkeys to visitors, explaining how one caused the major fire at Easton Lodge in 1918; but what do you know about Kim, the Countess' baby elephant? You will have to join us to find out more and for our younger visitors we will have a story teller to weave the tale. We will have our usual tasty fayre. For more information about the Open Day and how to buy your tickets in advance go to our website or Facebook page.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439



THE STANSTED IN BLOOM GROUP

The 'bloom year' has started, with wonderful displays of snowdrops and daffodils; the stunning blossoms have started to break out, as have the bluebells, transforming our local woods. Lots of you will have captured pictures of Stansted in Bloom and we hope you will be prepared to share your pictures with us.

For the Anglia in Bloom competition this year we need to submit 5 photographs and up to 50 words for each category we enter, so we would like to build up a photo gallery from

which we can select the shots to support our entry. To encourage you to share your best pictures with us we are holding a **Stansted in Bloom photographic competition** which is being supported by Paris Legore Flowers and Gifts in Lower Street. We will be awarding prizes for three age groups: below 11, 11 to 16 and over 16. Entries are limited to three pictures per person. You will need to send them digitally as a jpeg attachment to the email address at the end of this article. Please put 'photo comp' and your age group as the subject and provide full contact details. The closing date for entries is **Friday 28th May**. Your pictures may be posted on social media and used by us and Stansted Parish Council publicity material, so you are giving up your copyright.

The Stansted in Bloom Garden Competition

Planning for the traditional Stansted in Bloom is well underway. We will award prizes in the following categories:

- Overall garden
- Front Garden
- Hanging Baskets/containers
- Fruit and Vegetable Plots (Garden or Allotment)
- Communal Areas (Care homes and Schools)
- Commercial properties (Pubs, Clubs, Shops etc)

It would be great to have new people to add to our regular entrants. The lockdowns have given some people more time and incentive to garden; there are many really attractive gardens which greatly enhance the street scenes in the village. We would like to show our appreciation of your efforts so please consider an entry. Entries close on **Wednesday 30th June** and will be judged on Sunday 11th July. You can download entry forms from our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stanstedinbloom or the Parish Council website www.stansted.net or you can get a hard copy from the Parish Council office at Crafton Green.

Trevor Lloyd
Email: Stanstedinbloom@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

With the better news coming from the Government, and assuming that continues, I am becoming increasingly confident that we will be allowed to hold our fête on Bank Holiday Monday 30th August. We have therefore made provisional booking for some of the children's attractions, including a train and the ever-popular bouncy castle. Most of you will know that we always have stalls for small businesses and we like to encourage our local charities to book a stall. Do get in touch with me on the number below if you are interested in booking a stall.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

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RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

Our open spaces have been invaluable to us and more of us have been walking the lanes and footpaths around our local fields this last year, maybe for the first time. I hope you are enjoying all the wildlife around you along the way. Did you know we are lucky enough to have skylarks and yellowhammers on some of those fields? Lucky because numbers of these ground nesting birds have seen a big decline since the 1990s and are still in decline. Have you seen them? For skylarks look up high and listen for their melodic song.

What you can do to help

Adults, children and dogs can cause stress to breeding birds if they walk or run freely through nesting areas. A nest often will not be visible until you are walking on it. Even if no physical harm is done to the birds, being disturbed may cause the parent to desert a nest and it can also cause birds to scatter, making them vulnerable to predators, like birds of prey. Repeated disturbances can also stress birds out, use up valuable energy and leave them weaker and more vulnerable to other threats. A field may have cereal crops in it or silage (grass crop). Some fields may have been left fallow (unused) and you may think there are only weeds or wildflowers growing so it does not matter if you take a short cut across. Please think about these precious birds who may have made their nests in our neighbourhood and walk on designated footpaths. The breeding season can be April to August so we need to be mindful all summer long and help these birds as much as we can. Thank you.



Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

Many groups have been able to continue during lockdown, mainly using the Zoom app. Keep an eye out for details of some planned Zoom coffee mornings! Tony Wellings has kept us alert with his emails giving details of some lovely local walks and photos of the wild flowers and wildlife that we should look out for on the way. Some recommended books to read with a pastoral theme are *English Pastoral* by James Rebanks, *A year Living Simply* by Kate Humble and *Arthur's Garden* by Pam Rhodes. The Book Group have continued with their passion for reading but we are all looking forward to regaining some sort of normality with a general meeting on 24th June, taking advantage of the Government's hoped-for end to lockdown. This will be a social meeting with tea and cakes and an opportunity for us all to have a catch-up chat and generally get used to meeting together

again. The speaker at our first normal monthly meeting on 15th July will be Alan Haines who will talk on *The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show*.

We are proposing to have an Open Day on **Thursday 1st July** and hope you will come along and see what we are about. Maybe there will be something to interest you, and if you are not a member, we would love to have you join up and find a group to belong to. More details will be in the June Link and there will be posters on the noticeboards around the village. This year our annual membership is just £12, and our Membership Secretary, Lynda Webb tel: 813102 will be happy to take your details and join you up.

Eileen Quinn



ST MARY'S C of E FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

We were thrilled to have been chosen to take part in *The Tree Council Orchards for School*, and we have been given three hedgerows and a mini orchard (plum, cherry, apple and pear); these will be planted in our sensory garden. We also received funding from Uttlesford District Council and the Parish Council for our developing allotment area. This has meant we can encourage and demonstrate growing your own food, healthy eating and enjoying the great outdoors to the children. We anticipate lots of tasty fruit and vegetables coming our way soon.

Covid has shown us that appreciation of outdoor spaces is very important for mental health and we are pleased as a school to be able to promote this so positively to our pupils. In addition, we are proud to be supporting World Autism Awareness Day on our return to school, and funds raised from this will help support our new sensory room project. Our ever-supportive PTFA are currently organising a spring trail event *Spring on your doorstep challenge* which will take place over the bank holiday weekend of 29th May. Further information will be available on our website.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

Email: office@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

It is with great regret that I have to tell you that Uttlesford District Council has made the decision to no longer support the lunch service at its four Day Centres. As a consequence, Angela, our manager, and cooks Jo and Diana have sadly been made redundant. It is uncertain what will happen in the future, but the District Council has ring-fenced money, which can be used to provide services at the Day Centre for Stansted residents. It is hoped that this will include hot meals, which will appeal to our customers. Hiring of the Day Centre building will now be managed by the Parish Council. The building remains closed at present.



Catherine Dean

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ALMSHOUSES



Cllr Maureen Caton with Diana Hoy, a trustee and director of LEAP, outside almshouses sold in 2013

CALL FOR SITES

The Parish Council is looking to deliver up to 8 almshouses to remain affordable in perpetuity and are keen to hear from landowners willing to donate land on a legacy or philanthropic basis to this project.

Almshouses on Church Road were sold in 2013 after they had become unsuitable as homes for the elderly and proved too expensive to modernise.

The sale netted three quarters of a million pounds which has been set aside to fund the project, while a recent partnership with Legacy East Almshouse Partnership (LEAP) has added momentum to the Council's plans.

LEAP runs more than 14 almshouses - most of which are in Essex - and the local charity will manage those built in Stansted under the Council's scheme.

Almshouses have a long history in the village, with the ones in Stansted dating back to the 1830s when one of the Fullers, a family of wealthy London bankers, married a local landowner.

LEAP and the Council wish to honour the Fullers' original wishes of providing homes for older people who have been unable to buy their own home during their working lifetimes.

It is hoped the homes can be built as a series of bungalows around a courtyard with benches to help residents socialise. The ideal size for a plot of land would be at least one-third of an acre.

Landowners who wish to benefit land should contact Cllr Maureen Caton at maureencaton@stansted.net or call the Council on 01279 813214.

RECYCLING INITIATIVE

With the government targeting net-zero carbon emissions for the country by 2050, there is a greater need for everyone to play their part in fighting global warming by recycling their domestic waste.

In addition to the recycling services provided by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) that deal with household waste, Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council is publicising a scheme by Terracycle, an organisation specialising in programmes that target small commonplace items that prove difficult to recycle with other council schemes.

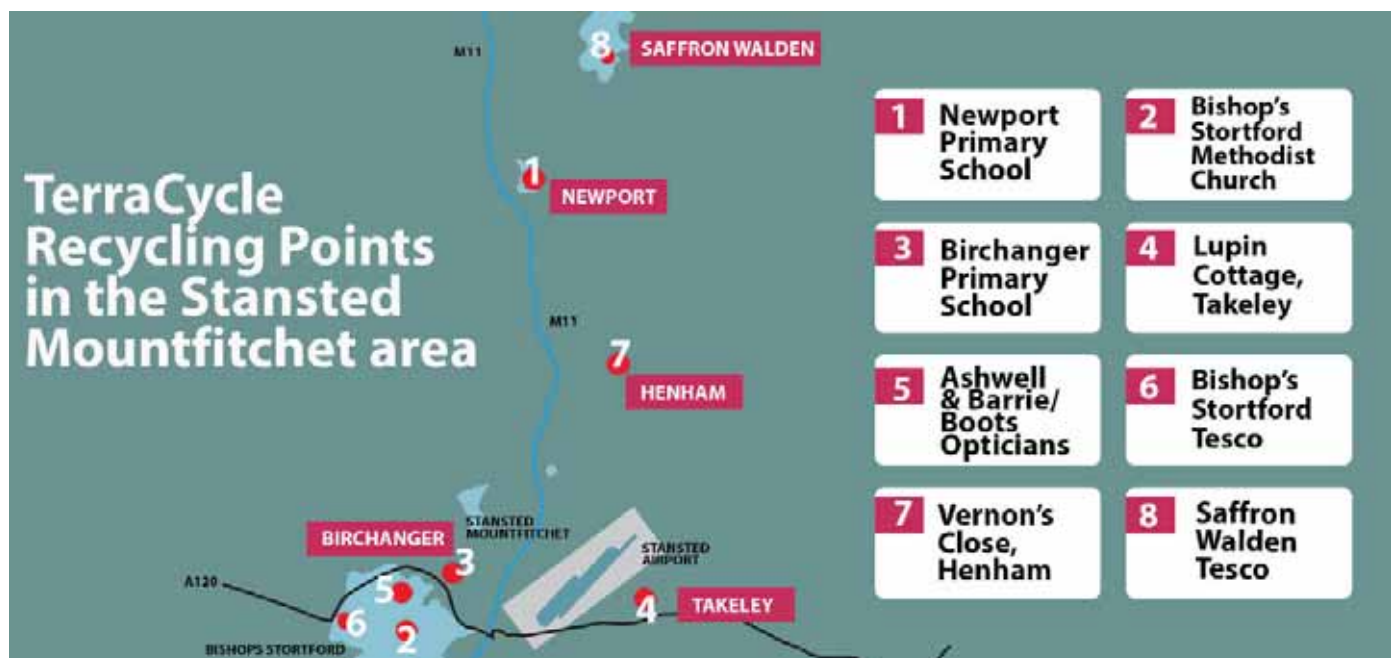
Terracycle has established several local drop-off points to make it easier for residents to recycle more and reduce community waste. Once collected, Terracycle manages the recycling process.

You can learn exactly how the Terracycle operates at www.terracycle.com.

Below is a round-up of the 8 micro-recycling sites that will help you get to grips with everything from unwanted bread wrappers, contact lens casings to spent writing pens, air-fresheners and empty tubes of toothpaste. Numbers reference the map at the top of page 21.



Terracycle makes it easier for residents to recycle items such as cosmetics, toothpaste and food wrapping - image Katie Nesling, Dreamstime



1 WRITING INSTRUMENTS RECYCLING

The programme accepts all writing instruments (except for wooden pencils and chalk). **What's not accepted:** glue sticks, rubbers, rulers. **Drop off:** Newport Primary School – Frambury Lane, CB11 3PU, Mon-Fri 8.30am-3.30pm

2 RING CARRIER RECYCLING

The programme accepts all flexible plastic ring carriers used to hold cans. **Drop off:** Bishop's Stortford Methodist Church, 34B South St. Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3AZ, Mon-Fri 10am-1.30pm, Sat-Sun 10am-12.30. Contact manager.bsmc@gmail.com

3 BISCUITS & SNACKS RECYCLING

This scheme accepts all brands of cake wrappers, cracker wrappers, and non-savoury biscuit wrappers. Remove all food residue before recycling. **Drop off:** Birchanger C of E Primary School, 33 Birchwood, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 5QL, Mon-Fri 8am-4pm. Contact: 01279 812362

PERSONAL CARE & BEAUTY RECYCLING

Targeting personal care and beauty packaging, it accepts flexible single-use mask packaging and the blue plastic film put on top of tissue masks, among other cosmetic products. **What's not accepted:** Plastic bottles. **Alternative drop-off:** Lupin Cottage, Brewers End, Takely, CM22 6SB. Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm. Contact: bethcaiger@btinternet.com

SNACK PACKET & CONFECTIONERY RECYCLING

A programme that focuses on empty packets for nuts, popcorn or crisps, as well as plastic sweet packaging. **What's not accepted:** Breakfast, granola and energy bar wrappers.

COLGATE® ORAL CARE RECYCLING

The scheme recycles oral care packaging: toothpaste tubes and caps, plastic toothbrushes, floss containers and toothpaste cartons.

4 BREAD BAG RECYCLING

Any brand of bread loaf bags accepted. Lupin Cottage, Brewers End, Takely, CM22 6SB. Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm. Contact: bethcaiger@btinternet.com

5 ACUVUE® CONTACT LENS RECYCLE

All brands of soft contact lenses, lens blister packaging (incl and foil). **Drop off:** Ashwell & Barrie Opticians, 34-36 North Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 2LW, Tues-Fri 9am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-4pm. Boots Opticians, 22 South Street, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3AT

6 MAYBELLINE MAKEUP RECYCLING

Accepts eye/face make-up packaging.

Drop off: Tesco Bishop's Stortford, Bishops Park Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DD

7 AIR, HOME AND LAUNDRY CARE RECYCLING

Plastic air fresheners (and cartridge caps) accepted, as well as cleaning wipes and laundry washing capsules. **What's not accepted:** Clear plastic bottles. **Drop off:** 57 Vernons Close, Henham, CM22 6AF, Monday-Sunday 24hrs. Contact: bethanyhall5@yahoo.com

8 KIDS FOOD POUCH RECYCLING

Recycle all brands of baby food pouches, kids yogurt pouches and caps. **Drop off:** Tesco Saffron Walden - collection point at customer service area. Tesco Saffron Walden, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2JP. Mon-Sat, 24hrs; Sun, 11am-5pm

ELECTIONS 2021

You can participate in three elections this 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.

POLLING STATIONS

You can only vote at the polling station stated on your poll card, which by now should have been delivered to all registered voters. Polling stations will open from 7am-10pm on polling day. Voters are urged to follow measures taken in accordance of local and national guidance to keep the public safe as we exit Lockdown restrictions. More information for voters can be found at uttlesford.gov.uk/elections.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Geoffrey Sell writes:

UTT/20/212 Land west of Pennington Lane

I should like to thank the hundreds of residents who objected to this planning application. I am convinced that it made a difference.

Bloor Homes application was for up to 168 properties. There was a real danger that time would run out and the application be non-determined as was the case with Fairfields at Elsenham.

Thanks to the intervention of Cllrs Melvin Caton and Janice Loughlin, members of the planning committee officers issued a refusal notice. The application did not go before the planning committee. Compared to 2013 when the officer recommended approval in an adjacent location, this represented a big improvement.

A battle has been won but not necessarily the war. Bloor Homes will undoubtedly go to appeal. As happened eight years ago the Parish Council will join forces with Save Stansted Village to ensure the appeal is dismissed.

Some of the reasons for refusal were:

- The design, layout, scale and appearance of the development is inappropriate in terms of the character of the site and surrounding area. The development would erode a distinctive open rural landscape area of significant importance to the character of this area of Stansted Mount-fitchet, as well as the nearby conservation area and other heritage assets.
- The proposed development does not represent sustainable development as it cannot show that the economic, social and environmental aspects of the development are satisfied in a positive

and beneficial way. The development scheme as submitted will involve a detrimental impact on the Bentfield Green conservation area and other local heritage assets and the loss of open countryside outside the development limits

- The loss of agricultural land and the impact on nearby heritage assets and the conservation area would outweigh the benefits of the development, especially with the limited level of mitigation being proposed.

STANSTED AIRPORT PUBLIC INQUIRY

The public inquiry into the appeal against the District Council's refusal against further expansion at the airport has concluded. We now await the verdict of the Inspectors. A decision is expected in around three months. The planning committee of which I was a member made the decision in January 2020 to refuse permission for the airport to expand to 43 million passengers per annum (MPPA).

Some councillors including myself were unhappy with the way UDC conducted the appeal. We made a number of representations to the leadership of the Council but to no avail. As Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) puts it:

"There was no attempt whatsoever by UDC to mount a robust defence of the decision of its own Planning Committee. MAG has made it clear that, if it wins its case, it will seek an award of costs against UDC but not against SSE. Costs at a Public Inquiry can only be awarded in the event of "unreasonable behaviour" and MAG claims that UDC behaved unreasonably in defending the appeal."

If Stansted Airport is successful in winning the appeal the consequence for the Council and the residents will be severe. Not only in environmental terms but also financial. An award of legal costs against the Council would be substantial.

COVID-19

Finally, I am sure that we all feel enormous gratitude to our marvellous NHS, and everyone else involved, for the roll-out of the Vaccine, which will help to protect us. Thank You All so much.

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

STAFF

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Trainee Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee Support Asst Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Asst Dan Schlanker

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 01279 813214

Mon-Fri 9.00am-4.00pm, *Wed* 9.00am-1.00pm

Website: www.stansted.net



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Up and coming meetings are listed below:

- **May 5** - Finance & General Purposes
- **May 12** - Annual Council
- **May 19** - Full Council

Agendas are published at www.stansted.net. Click on the Meetings tab and then on Agendas.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Frances RICHARDS - vice chairman

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Daphne WALLACE-JARVIS

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Ray GOODING

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

POLICE

PCSO Nikki Morris

tel: 101(non-emergency)

email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk

The Community Policing Team has its own email address which is monitored daily:

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



Lower Street Car Park hosts the garden waste recycling skip alternate Sundays each month

For residents who do not have access to the Recycling Centre for Household Waste at Saffron Walden, a skip will be made available to dispose of garden waste in the Lower Street Car Park on alternate Sundays 12.30-4.30pm. Dates in May are listed below:

- **May 2**
- **May 16**
- **May 30**

Alternatively, residents can sign up with Uttlesford District Council's garden waste bin collection service. The cost is £46 for 2021-22. There's a £22.50 one-off fee for a garden waste bin for new entrants to the scheme. See uttlesford.gov.uk/gardenwaste

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Nature Notes

Elder *Sambucus nigra*

This is an exceptional tree, a constant in our hedgerows along with dog rose, hawthorn and bramble. The flowers are much smaller, and one could say much more fragrant, but it is not a perfume enjoyed by all. Today we might use the flowers in culinary delights, but better known as the base for elderflower wine, fizz (champagne) and cordial. My own favourite is the latter, steeping the flowers in vodka, then straining, and adding a little honey. This is a perfect winter pick-me-up on a cold day. This plant in its entirety has been regarded as the country medical chest. Elderflower tea in early spring could reduce the symptoms of hay fever. The flowers had pain-killing properties, could induce sweating, and could bring down a fever. The berries have always been regarded as a good source of Vitamin C and are being produced commercially into syrups as a treatment for winter ills. The leaves can be used in an ointment for sprains and strains.



Folk in the old days would use the flower-heads as an insect repellent and would hang bunches over the horses pulling carts to put off the irritating flies. Barns could be rid of mice and rats by strewing the leaves. The berries were used as hair dye or ink. "If the medicinal properties of the leaves, bark, berries etc were thoroughly known, I cannot tell of what our country-men could ail, for which he might not fetch a remedy from every hedge" said John Evelyn, a mid-18th century herbalist. When one thinks of it, many of our ancestors were poor, but nature was free to them, provided they knew how to use all the benefits.

Bee's Daughter



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

We are very pleased to announce that there will be a 2021 season. You may receive your copy of The Link in time to read about our open weekend on **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th April**, depending on the weather. This will give anyone thinking of joining our Club the opportunity to view the green and meet a few of the members. Normally we would just open our doors and welcome everyone and there would be ample opportunity to try out the club facilities, have a

good look round, then test out the green. This year it will be slightly different as we will have to comply with all Covid regulations, so we are asking anyone interested to phone the number at the end of the article beforehand. That way we can be certain that everything is ready and that we all stay Covid compliant. If you are interested but busy that weekend, or if you are reading this after the 25th April, please ring me.

Whilst it is not 100% clear how the rest of the season will pan out, we do know that, for the first few weeks at least, we will be using two of our four rinks only and on a pre-booked basis. For anyone new to the sport or for our longer standing members who were unable to play last year, this will provide an ideal opportunity to get some practice and build up confidence again. After the first few weeks we are hoping that the league and friendly fixtures will start up again, but we are still waiting for confirmation and Bowls England guidance on what restrictions will apply. We are not sure when our bar will reopen and our social activities can recommence, but rest assured this will be as soon as safely possible. Now all we need is for the sun to shine.

Jeanette Mansell
Secretary

Tel: 07967 033924

Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com

STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

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



Unfortunately, the announcement from the FA that supporters would not be allowed into our games, along with the closure of our clubhouses, has meant that a number of clubs felt that playing would lead to high financial losses which they were not prepared to live with, so therefore pulled out of the planned competition. However, with the backing of the League and the FA, a replacement cup competition with invitations to teams from other leagues was hastily put together; so throughout May we hope to continue to have successful victories which would lead to a final being played at the end of the month. The League have also organised a video streaming service so that supporters would still be able to view their teams' games. Please keep following the updates which we will be posting on our social media accounts as to how the team is progressing.

Our over-45s are also back playing and a revamped league cup competition started last month which should also be completed by the end of the month. The players of both our teams are so pleased to get their boots back on and play. The first team have already arranged a number of pre-season away friendlies in July; again please check our social media accounts for details. Competitive football is planned to return in August with the FA Cup scheduled to be one of our first games. To all our supporters, have a safe summer; we will see you all in August.



Tom Williams
Secretary

Tel: 07921 403842

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STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The cricket season will begin on time which is great news for all our members. Outdoor nets began in early April for our senior players and our junior coaching evenings began on 16th April. Our All Stars programme for children aged five to eight will begin on **Friday 7th May**. The England and Wales Cricket Board gave the go-ahead to open our clubs from 29th March. Restrictions still apply and will be adhered to. The club is in good shape going into the new season. Financially we are stable and it appears that all of last season's players will return, plus a few more. Both grounds (Stansted House and Molehill Green) are looking very nice and both pavilions have been improved. Jason Brown (All Stars), Paul Walton (U10), Ollie Patmore (U13), and Andrew Mackinlay (U15) will continue to take the Friday evening coaching sessions at our main ground.

The club would like to thank our primary sponsors Russell Property and Nockolds, all advertisers and ball sponsors for their continued support. Providing we get some warmth and sunshine this could be a lovely summer of sport. After what has been a very difficult winter, we very much hope that people will want to get outside and take the air at either of our grounds. A warm welcome awaits you. If you are interested in joining the club in any capacity please contact me. Have a great summer everybody and stay safe.



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



Stansted Tennis Club
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Rusty Rackets!

A new Rusty Rackets/Beginners drop-in session is being held every Sunday 9.00am-10.00am. This is 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

Lawn Tennis Association qualified coach Ollie Toms has recommenced his popular coaching programme, 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 for more information.

Ladies' night

The next ladies only club session is 10th May, from 6.30pm.

New members are always welcome; please go to our membership page on the website for further details.

Fiona Kelly
Publicity Officer
Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



*Stansted
Cricket
Club*

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

Thanks to a grant from the Stansted Sports Association, we have recently installed a fourth CCTV camera, which looks out over the car park, and have also upgraded the wi-fi link between the football and cricket clubs. We have received a donation of £250 from Stansted Parish Council's Finance Committee, which we plan to spend on picnic table seating to make the area next to the pavilion more amenable for visitors and spectators. In addition, we were given a further *Return to Cricket* grant from Uttlesford District Council, for which we are very grateful. Subject to further announcements from the Government, Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) cricket is due to resume at Hargrave Park from **Saturday 2nd May**. However, this is expected to be without spectators, with no use of the changing rooms or pavilion (except for the toilets). There will be no communal teas or drinks provided, and players are required to arrive fully changed and to bring their own refreshments. During each innings, play will stop every six overs for the players to sanitise their hands and the ball. Senior home fixtures for May:

Sat 1 st	13.30	League Div 3	2 nd XI v Hockerill II
Sun 2 nd	14.00	Friendly	Sun XI v Epping Foresters
Sat 8 th	13.30	League Div 1	1 st XI v Willingale

(NB As Division 3 contains only nine teams, SCC 2nd XI have no HEBL fixture on Saturday 15th May)

Sun 16 th	14.00	Friendly	Sun XI v Stocking Pelham
Sat 22 nd	13.30	League Div 1	1 st XI v Braughing
Sun 23 rd	14.00	Friendly	Sun XI v Thorley
Sat 29 th	13.30	League Div 3	2 nd XI v Thundridge
Sun 30 th	14.00	Friendly	Sun XI v Hockerill

Dates for cup matches are mutually agreed between teams. In the HEBL Cup, we have been drawn at home to Thaxted in Round 1 (to be played by 28th May); in the Davies Cup we have been drawn at home to Hockerill (to be played by 23rd June). For more information please see our website.

STANSTED JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB

The club is very pleased to announce that junior cricket is also returning to Hargrave Park. This year there will be no subscriptions or match fees so as many junior boys and girls as possible can just enjoy playing again. Softball cricket registration for juniors from age seven [Year 2] to age 11 [Year 6] will take place at the pavilion on **Friday 30th April** from 5.30pm. There will be a session going on for the children to enjoy. All subsequent softball sessions will be on Fridays at 5.30pm, supervised by two Level 2 coaches. Hard ball cricket registration (for Year 7 upwards) will take place at the pavilion on **Monday 3rd May** from 6.30pm. Hard ball sessions will be on Mondays 5.30pm-8.00pm, supervised by two Level 2 coaches. The coach contacts are Keith Ayres tel 07768 023830 and Matt Cope tel 07583 106408.



David Hedge
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