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Front cover:

Spring Tulips in Stansted
by Elizabeth Oakley
enhanced by
Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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

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EDITORIAL



The southern Stansted Knight looked magnificent last April with the glorious tulips and hopefully they will bloom as beautifully this year. Spring, together with Easter, gives a sense of renewal, and I would like to highlight several events or places which are new. The Touchpoint Dementia café is opening on Fridays, see page 27 for further details; it offers great companionship for those who are caring for someone with dementia. Let's Talk, Stansted! is launching a Woman's Hour on Wednesdays, as well as a Mental First Aid course; see page 7 for details of these two initiatives. You will also see on page 19 that the Recycling fundraising is now taking old spectacles; I am sure most of us with glasses have a stack of them kept in a drawer *just in case!* Brand new is the Fun Place on the Hill, opening on 22nd April; see page 4 for details. There is another venue for youngsters called Little Learners, which features on page 11. Small humans in Stansted are really lucky to have the chance to have great fun in safe and happy venues.

Now to go back in time; those of you who have lived here a long time might want to look at page 19, to see if you recognise any of the chaps in the Civil Defence during WWI. In June, we hope to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen; the article on page 17 contains a request for participation by our readers. I cannot go without expressing my deep anguish for what is going on in Ukraine and I am sure you feel it too; it is all so devastating and tragic.

FARNHAM BLUEBELL WALKS

The village of Farnham will be hosting the popular bluebell walks on **Saturday 30th April**. These walks, by permission of the landowners, allow us to walk through unspoilt natural bluebell woods not normally open to the public. There are two guided walks: 4-5 miles leaving from the church at 11.00am, and one mile leaving from Hazel End Farm at noon. Both walks finish at the church where a BBQ and other refreshments will be available.



Photo by Yvonne Ayres

Tickets: adults £4.00, under 14s £3.00, children in push-chairs free. All proceeds will go to essential building work on our church. Dogs on leads are welcome. Some of the paths are not regularly walked, so suitable footwear is recommended and of course it may be muddy. Do contact us for further information.

Graham and Maureen Lowden
Tel: 771313

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

I hope everybody survived storms Dudley and Eunice without too much damage or disruption. I have no doubt that if the tower had not been repaired it would have been lying in Lower Street! Our main casualty was one of the advertising banners which took off and it carried on flying until it reached The Dog and Duck.

New membership applications show no signs of slowing down which is very encouraging and at the time of writing we have approximately 800 paid-up members. The continued success of the Club allows us to draw up plans for refurbishing the outside of the Club. Our shop window is desperately in need of a birthday! By the time you read this the work on the flat roof above the pool tables should be complete. We are developing plans to expand the use of the Club and will be holding a plant sale on **Saturday 9th April** at 10.00am to the rear of the Club. Donations of all things horticultural would be most welcome. Please double-check the Facebook page and website for a final confirmation, and please call the Club to arrange any donations.

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

Every Sunday afternoon we hold a meat raffle for our members. The Club has been donating all profits from the March raffles to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) in their efforts to support Ukraine. They will be supplying food, water, shelter and healthcare to refugees and displaced families. We are also encouraging members to donate, or fundraise to ensure that we can contribute as much as possible to the appeal. If you would like to donate, whether a member or not, you can drop your contributions to the Club or give directly via the DEC website www.dec.org.uk.

Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 812992
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com





DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Just when we thought everything was going so well for us and that 2022 was going to be our year, storms Eunice and Franklin paid us a visit; to say their legacy was devastating is an under-statement. Trees were torn down, we were flooded, animal enclosures were up-turned, large wooden shelters were moved considerable distances by the wind; it was incredible how much damage these storms did. However, most importantly and unbelievably, none of our animals were hurt, they were a tad dazed and confused, but then so were we! Luckily the flood water receded fairly quickly, and we moved the animals affected to new dry shelters and have done our best to tidy up the storm damage.



It is obviously now an ongoing project and one that is going to cost us dear. We are therefore once more asking if you can help us, by giving what you can via our JustGiving page: www.justgiving.com/crowd-funding/alison-thompson-980. Thank you so much. We will of course be open over the Easter holidays and there are lots of lovely new babies waiting to meet you. Please check out our Facebook page for opening hours. Thank you so much for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you again soon. We are in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



Our next Merry Church is on **Sunday 24th April** at 3.30pm in St John's Church Hall, and will follow our usual pattern of themed crafts, celebration and food. There is no charge and no offering is taken. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day; however, to help with catering it would be helpful if you could let me know in advance if you are planning to come. If you are travelling by car, please park in Magna Carta School car park.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: messychurch@stanstedchurches.com



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Opening on 22nd April

We are very excited about the opening of our new free drop-in on **Fridays 9.15am-11.30am** in the Free Church Hall starting on **22nd April**. Although particularly suitable for children, we welcome adults of all ages to come and join in the *fun*! There will be free squash and healthy snacks for the children, and tea/coffee and biscuits for the adults. Although there will be *free play* all morning, we are planning a story time around 10.30am. The hall is warm and comfortable, and offers plenty of space for children to play with toys and run around. There is limited free parking in the church car park. See you there!

Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

The second half of the Spring Term has been about people who help us and the children were very excited to visit Stansted Fire station.



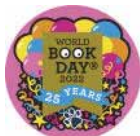
We had several replies to our email asking for parents who help us to come and talk to the children, so we have had a visit from a GP and are looking forward to talks from a policeman and a paramedic. The home corners in each of the classrooms have been changed; one into the doctors and the other into the vets. The children have very much enjoyed the different rôle play using lots of lovely language in their play. Mother's Day and Easter Cards have all been made and we had an exciting visit from Zoolab, a company which brings animals into schools; their focus for the day was 'We are going on an animal hunt' following the theme of one of the children's favourite books.

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

Gill Pursglove
Administration Manager
Tel: 814242



On 3rd March, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of World Book Day. We celebrated throughout the whole week with lots of exciting ways to promote reading for pleasure on that particular day and all-year round. Our Manuden Masked Reader was back by popular demand and all week long the staff entertained us with their masked reader videos. True identities were finally unveiled in our Masked Reader Reveal assembly at the end of the week and there were definitely some surprises when the masks finally came off. New for this year, as a celebration of our love of reading, each class received a Mystery Sharing book box. Each child chose a book from the box at random to take home without knowing what it was.



On the actual day it was great to see the children dressed up as their favourite book characters. The excitement was clear to see as the children arrived in the playground and continued throughout the day. During the afternoon, our Early Years and Key Stage One children were treated to a virtual, interactive puppet re-telling of Julia Donaldson's *Gruffalo*, performed by *Puppets Plays and Story Days*. Our week-long celebrations culminated in a visit from author Sam Scott who held a book reading with Key Stage 2 featuring her latest children's book, *Sophie Sprit and the Batting Manor Mystery*. The children were captivated as Sam read snippets from her book and told us how she had created the character and devised the plot. To conclude the week, we held a second-hand book sale which was a huge hit with the children. The money raised will be used to buy resources for our school library.

Manuden Primary School - Nurturing life skills and inspiring achievement for today and tomorrow.

Marnie Tait
Acting Headteacher
Tel: 813370

Email: admin@mauden.essex.sch.uk

KEEP FIT CLASSES FOR LADIES OVER 50

We have some vacancies in our classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.25pm-3.25pm in the Free Church Hall. Classes have been running for over 20 years and our instructor is fully qualified and insured. Please contact me for details.



Linda Gurr
Tel: 816250

Our first full season Open Day at the gardens is **Sunday 24th April** and we are hoping for fantastic weather and joyful visitors, to help put the dark, windy and wet days of winter fully behind us. Since the new year, it has been one step forward, two back at the gardens. Dry weather in January allowed us to work steadily through our winter jobs, prepping for snowdrop open days; however snowdrop season was also storm season, so in March we were clearing up all the dead wood. Trees have limited lives and some of those planted in 1902, when the Countess of Warwick had the gardens remodelled by Harold Peto, are now becoming frail. So recently we have been planting new trees to add different specimen trees and ensure succession. This last year many interesting specimen trees were given to us by the widow of Henry Girling, who was a renowned arboriculturist. Visitors in April will be able to seek out all the new trees and the county champion trees, and there will be a tree trail and craft activities for children.

April is a lovely month, with fresh leaves on the trees; the acers are particularly stunning and there is blossom on the plum trees in the walled kitchen garden. The daffodils are usually still massed in flower in the lime wood and provide a carpet of yellow in the glade; while the tulips look vibrant against the lime green of the euphorbia in the Italian garden.



The Trust's volunteers will stand ready to welcome visitors from 11.00am and to provide the usual excellent fare at the gardens: local bacon rolls, or cheese or hummus, and home-made cakes, hot and cold drinks. There will be stalls too, with plants, crafts and homemade jams. For more details go to our website.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

1	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	The Linden 7 am
3 & 17	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Pk 12.30 - 4.30 pm
5	Tue	Stansted is well read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
6 & 20	Wed	Bereavement Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
6 & 13	Wed	Lent Groups	Free Church Hall 7.30 for 7.45 pm
6	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Sat	Link copy due in today	before noon
		Social Club Plant Sale	Rear of Social Club 10 am
		Music@stansted	St John's Church 7.30 pm
12	Tue	RSPB	B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
14	Thu	WI Flog It	Day Centre 7.15 for 7.30 pm
16	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
17 Sun & 18	Mon	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
20	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
21	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
22	Fri	Fun Place on the Hill opens	Free Church Hall 9.15 - 11.30 am
24	Sun	Plant Sale	Littlebury Church 2 - 4 pm
		Messy Church	St John's Hall 3.30 - 5 pm
30	Sat	Farnham Bluebell Walks	11 am and noon



7.30 pm Sat 9th Apr

St John's Church

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All ages Welcome

www.stanstedchurches.com



Farnham Bluebell Walks

Sat 30th Apr

11 am Farnham Church (4-5 miles)
Noon Hazel End Farm (1 mile)

Walks are guided and finish at the church

BBQ ~ Dogs on Leads Welcome

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We held a very successful superhero-themed *Love your Library* open day on 19th February, wonderfully supported by Touchpoint Café, the Parish Council and a whole host of other partners. The fire engine and firefighters came along for two stints, with a call out in the middle; adults and children alike enjoyed being shown around the fire engine. Local author, Carol Russell, did a reading and signed copies of her books and the coffee and cakes at Touchpoint Café were as delicious as ever.



It was great to see quite a few spidermen and other superheroes and the feedback was that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day. There will be another one coming up in the next half term holiday so if you missed this one, we look forward to seeing you at the next one. Details to follow next month.

In the meantime, it is business as usual; our opening hours are: Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm, Wednesday 2.00pm-5.00pm, Thursday 2.00-7.00pm, Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm.

Susannah Freeman

Email: Stansted.library@essex.gov.uk



STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 5th April at 8.00pm at The Dog and Duck in Lower Street where we will be discussing *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. We are looking forward to reading this modern classic about learning to listen to your heart and follow your dreams. A young shepherd living in the hills of Andalusia feels that there is more to life than his humble home and his flock. One day he finds the courage to follow his dreams into distant lands where magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder combine to make an inspiring tale of self-discovery. We are always pleased to welcome new members so please do get in touch if you would like to join us.



Anne Watson

Tel: 898693

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



LET'S TALK, STANSTED!

www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

Women's Hour New Meeting Group

We are delighted to announce the launch of our Women's Hour in partnership with Bear and Eden on Wednesdays 11.00am-noon at their café in Lower Street. If you have something on your mind, come for a coffee, a chat and a listening ear. Share your stories and ideas and help us build a supportive network for women in our community.

Mental Health First Aid Programme

Our certified training course starts on **Wednesday 20th April**. If you would like to understand more about mental health, how you can support people in need, and potentially work with our team in the community, visit our website for details of this nationally recognised course. This covers mental health and suicide awareness and supporting others, and is online, so you can participate from home or office. It runs for just two hours per week over four weeks and will give you the confidence and the tools to help others and potentially save lives.

See our website for information on all our groups:

The Veg Shed allotment club for men.

Muddy Walkers weekly walking group open to everyone.

We have representatives at the *Touchpoint Café* every Thursday and Friday at the Day Centre. Everyone is welcome to get in touch with the team, whatever your situation or state of mind. Let's Keep Talking!

Richard Haywood

Tel: 07794 268208

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org

NEW INITIATIVE

Have you noticed all the truncated lampposts swathed in hazard warning tape along the Cambridge Road and elsewhere in the village? I have heard that it is all part of a new initiative currently being trialled, turning redundant street furniture into modern art installations.



Apparently, the powers that be are seeking suggestions as to what Stansted's up-to-date version of the Standing Stones of Callanish should be called. How about *Unfinished Work*?

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IN MEMORIAM

BRIDGET GOTT

9th February 1932 – 18th February 2022



Bridget was born and spent her early years in Potters Bar, the only child of Phyllis and Cyril Watts. She was evacuated to Scotland twice during WWI. In the early post war years, the family moved to Enfield where Bridget joined a light operatic society and enjoyed playing hockey. At 17 she went to work in London at the Bank of India. She became a member of Enfield Young Conservatives and soon got involved in their social and political activities. She met her future husband John at Blackheath Sports Ground. However, John went off to work in Baghdad and Bahrain and then West Africa; they finally married in 1955 in French Gabon where they ran a store and traded in local commodities. They returned to England, and lived in a thatched cottage in Great Canfield with no lighting or heating, then moved to Enfield, where Bridget joined the young wives' group at her church. They now had three children: Robin, Alan and Charlotte.

Bridget and John came to Stansted in 1972 and bought North End House in Gall End where they were joined by her parents who purchased and renovated Yew Tree Cottage next door. Later they all moved to The Porch in Lower Street, and finally she moved to Bentfield Causeway. Bridget soon got involved with Stansted life, chairing the local Conservatives social committee for over 40 years, and attending Conservative Party Conferences, including Brighton, but fortunately was not staying at the bombed Grand Hotel! Being a born organiser, she arranged numerous, enjoyable and successful events. She served as an Uttlesford District Councillor from 1983-1987 and as a Stansted Parish Councillor continuously for 30 years, retiring in 2015, where she was involved in various activities and committees, such as the Stansted Airport Consultative Committee, and was active in the campaign to stop the airport expansion. For a while she was a school governor in Elsenham. A long-time supporter of the Windmill, she enjoyed helping and chatting to people at the annual fête.

She and John loved travelling and went to Egypt, China, and Hong Kong; they enjoyed safaris in Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar and went cruising. She enjoyed visiting her son Robin and family in Sweden and had many happy holidays in Southwold. Bridget was a volunteer driver for the Day

Centre and organised the drivers' rota, collected for the British Red Cross, supported Macmillan Cancer Charity, and enjoyed Music at Stansted and the U3A book group. Although in recent years her mobility was reduced, she was a fount of knowledge; if you wanted to know what was going on in Stansted, just ask Bridget.

She loved dogs and dogs loved her. Her adopted rescue dogs soon became happy, well-fed and contented pets with wagging tails. Bridget liked cooking, was a colourful, elegant, sociable and feisty lady who enjoyed conversation and had recently celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends. As well as her three children, Bridget leaves nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and numerous friends in Stansted. So many of us have enjoyed her friendship and good company. Thank you, Bridget.

Christine and Bill Stiles



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

A reminder of our concert with the Ferio saxophone quartet on **Saturday 9th April** at 7.30pm in St John's Church. Their concert ranges from Henry Purcell to Leonard Bernstein and from Handel's Water Music to Bizet's Carmen. The Ferios have been on Radio 3 recently, and Gramophone magazine has praised their tonal subtlety and expressiveness. If you have only ever associated the saxophone with jazz and big band music, here is your chance to hear just how subtle and expressive the instrument can be. Tickets: adults £15 and £12, under 18s free on the door or in advance from 815282.

We are looking forward immensely to restoring normal service with our usual season of four concerts starting on 8th October at 7.30pm with the Piatti String Quartet, followed by 27th November at 3.00pm (pianist Dominic Degavino), 29th January at 3.00pm (violinist Charlie Lovell Jones) and 25th March at 7.30pm (Vela chamber ensemble). You can enjoy these concerts at substantially reduced prices by buying a season ticket. Details will be sent out later this year so if you are not already on our mailing list, just send your email address (or postal address if you prefer) to me.

Richard Allaway

Tel: 814118

Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk

LITTLEBURY PLANT SALE

This will take place on **Sunday 24th April**, 2.00pm-4.00pm at Holy Trinity Church, Littlebury. There will be teas available. Payment will be electronic or cash and you will need to bring a bag or two for your purchases. We are raising funds for our Grade 1 listed church.



Janice Rust

Tel: 01799 521312




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www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

At our March meeting, held at the Free Church Hall, members and friends watched Brenda Evers demonstrating five different ways to display flowers. Whilst she worked she gave hints and tips on how to prepare the containers and mould the foam so that water does not spill out whilst topping up the water, how to condition the various plants and shrubs she used and how she builds up her displays so that every flower can be appreciated. An on-going quiz guessing the names of the plants used kept everyone on their toes. The five finished displays were raffled at the end of the meeting, and you can see the very happy winners in the photographs!



Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 6th April** 7.40pm for 8.00pm in the Day Centre which is adjacent to the library and car park. It is our AGM followed by *The Ladybird Game*. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144



www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk

Every year just keeps getting busier and busier, which is by no means a bad thing. For us it means we are finally getting to do what we love and are good at; building gardens and growing habitats!

Forest Hall School

We had an awesome turnout on 26th February for our Forest Hall School Garden refurbishment. Over 13 volunteers, parents, Daniel Ricketts and I worked extremely hard clearing this site. We cleared almost half a skip of rubbish, moved three cubic metres of bark chips, replenished their current raised beds with two cubic metres of soil conditioners, rolled close to 25 giant logs up a hill, and then needed cake! We all walked away feeling super proud of what we achieved by the end of the day. Now the GROW FHS garden club at the school will be able to use the space more efficiently and with more hope in their hearts. By the time you read this we will have been planting over 50

saplings, installing a meadow patch and building a greenhouse. There is still more work to be done, so look out for those *after* pictures.

Birchanger Primary

On **Saturday 23rd April** we will be back for the last phase; if there is anyone locally who would like to be involved, please use the website to sign up and let us know which school you will be helping with. If you do not already follow us on Facebook or Instagram, please like and follow us today. You will be able to see live updates of all our exciting projects.



Keiran Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: Keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk



www.littlelearnersuk.com

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At a Little Learners class there is all the mess that you would expect from a messy play class, with the bonus of the *unique early writing program* for under 5s devised by qualified teacher and director of Little Learners, Rachel Fay. Each week we introduce one of the four *Mark Makers* characters and their marks: Lionel and the Soldier Marks (Straight lines); Archie and the Rainbow Marks (Arches); Swirlo and the Magic Marks (Swirls and Circles) and Ziggy and the Monster Marks (ZigZags). The class always starts with singing and dancing with ribbons, as research has shown that it is important to be able to make the big marks to enable us to make the small marks. We then ask the children to make the week's chosen mark whilst they are playing in the trays. We encourage them to make their marks in an array of different textures: sand, playdoh, paint, rice, spaghetti and many more, using their hands, fingers, feet and toes. The class gives you and your child a chance to work together on their early writing journey, and of course a chance to socialise with other children and adults. The more fun that children have mark making and developing their motor skills, the more prepared and confident they will be when it comes to writing at school.

Jade Hare



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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The dark days of winter should be over, and spring is here once again. Sadly this winter has been like no other, with war in Europe - oops, sorry, I should have called it 'a peace mission', and we cannot say that we have defeated Covid 19 yet. Christians have been observing the season of Lent, normally not the most thrilling experience, which starts with the annual reminder of Jesus's experience of being tempted away from his Father's plan for him, to the devil's alternative plot. He focused his mission on his teaching about the love of God for all humanity, but, of course, it would turn out to be a very costly mission to pursue. As Lent concludes, we will remember yet again the crucifixion of Christ, when storm clouds came down over Jerusalem, as he died on the cross.

So, thank God for April, the world seems such a different place, the light evenings and, usually, the more spring-like weather, and this year, in the middle of April, we will enjoy the festival of Easter, many with holidays, flourishing gardens and flowers all over the place. For Christians everywhere, we especially celebrate the events surrounding Easter, and the amazing event of Jesus' resurrection. How dearly the world needs the sense of joy that such a celebration brings, as we sing that "death could not hold him". Jesus rose to demonstrate to everyone that the love of God is not conquerable; not ever, it is on offer to us all, whatever our religion, our culture, or our personal state of mind. So, thank God for Easter. His gift to us all.

*When Easter to the dark world came fair flowers glowed like scarlet flame
At Eastertide, at Eastertide, o glad was the world at Eastertide*



Rev'd Stuart Veitch
Stansted Free Church

EASTER SERVICES

STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Palm Sunday 10th April

10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions

Good Friday 15th April

10.30am Denis Walker - Reflective Service

Easter Sunday 17th April

10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion

STANSTED QUAKERS

Palm Sunday 10th April 10.30am Meeting

Easter Sunday 17th April 10.30am Meeting

ST JOHN'S

Palm Sunday 10th April

9.30am Liturgy of Palm Sunday

Maundy Thursday 14th April

7.30pm Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Good Friday 15th April

2.00pm Liturgy of Good Friday

Easter Sunday 17th April

9.30am Easter Day Holy Communion

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Palm Sunday 10th April

8.30pm Mass

9.15am Confessions

10.00am Blessing of Palms, Procession and Mass

Fig Monday 11th April

9.00am Confessions

9.30am Mass

Temple Tuesday 12th April

7.15pm Confessions

8.00pm Mass

Maundy Thursday 14th April

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

8.00pm Mass and watch of prayer at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday 15th April

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

10.30am Stations of the Cross for Children and Families followed by hot cross buns

3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday 16th April

9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

8.00pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday 17th April 10.00am Mass of Easter Day





STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Secretary Betty Francis
Tel: 813977
Email: betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for April

3rd 10.30am Mike Dyer
10th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
15th 10.30am Denis Walker - Good Friday reflection
17th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion
24th 10.30am Janet Bottoms



CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresasstansted.org

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

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

Masses

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

Baptism by appointment

Our Easter and Holy Week Mass details are available in our Newsletter and on our Facebook page. You can also view the latest news and information regarding our Parish on our Website.

Clair Rava
Parish Administrator
Tel: 816889

Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
including Church St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
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Website: www.thefivechurches.org.uk

Priest in Charge Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather
Tel: 816721
Email: revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

Associate Priest Rev'd Helen Flack
Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

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

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

Services Family Communion (1st Sunday) 9.30am
Holy Communion (2nd-4th Sundays) 9.30am

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draw:

£100	No 205	L M Gascoyne
£ 50	No 179	Paul Salmon
£ 25	No 265	Margaret Hill

The draw for April will be held on **24th April** 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 to be given away this 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

January

Funeral
26th James Herman Ranskey -
service at St John's



STANSTED QUAKERS

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE
www.stansted.quakermeeting.org

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

Lettings Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
Email: yvonne-wood@outlook.com

Sunday worship 10.30am. Visitors are always welcome. We join together in stillness for an hour, followed by coffee and chat.

Quakers allow each person to explore their own experience of the divine. We try to live our faith in everyday life, with a dedication to peace, simplicity, truth, equality, and nature.

Light Group Saturday 9th April 10.30am-noon. This is a Quaker guided meditation. More information on the notice-board outside the Meeting House, or do contact me. A session is held on the second Saturday of each month.

Sue Moloney
Tel: 07759 532115
Email: suemol@uwclub.net



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Storm Eunice certainly caused some damage to St Mary's Church: for example, some tiles fell from the roof, which have been reported to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). Sadly, other CCT churches suffered more than us so they will take priority. These churches are closed to the public until damage is rectified. So, in the scheme of things, we are not too bad! Lots of tree branches are down too and it will be a major task clearing those. Let us hope that we can escape unscathed when storm Gladys arrives, whenever that is. St Mary's remains open daily 11.00am-3.00pm should you wish to come in for quiet prayer and solace in these troubling times of uncertainty. Our thoughts and prayers with people in Ukraine and for worried relatives here in the UK.

I am pleased to tell you that tickets are now on sale for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* on **Saturday 14th May** at 1.00pm. Tickets: adults £15.00, under 16s £12.00. CCT friend discounts are available on www.thisismytheatre.com when you check out. Pre booking is also available from this website. This is bound to be a very popular performance for young and old alike. I urge you to get your tickets early and I look forward to seeing you all.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



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

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

If you would like to attend any meeting for the first time, you will be very welcome, but please contact us using the details above to find out whether meetings are currently running in-person or online, or in a combination of both. This includes Tuesday evenings and Sundays, which are friendly and informal meetings with a combination of modern worship music, Bible-based talk/discussion and prayer. The Alpha Course is held on Monday afternoons, and Investigators for children aged 7-11, is on Friday evenings. Regular members receive updates on any changes by email.

We are also happy to receive prayer requests from anyone, and regularly see answered prayers. 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



The Lent Groups continue on **Wednesdays 6th and 13th April** 7.45pm-8.45pm in the Free Church Hall, with coffee served from 7.30pm. Each session includes an extract from the film *Jesus of Nazareth* starring Robert Powell, followed by discussion. Everyone is most welcome; no need to book, just come along. We look forward to seeing you.

David Morson
Tel: 850209



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PLATINUM JUBILEE

On 6th February of this year, Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service. There will be a four-day bank holiday from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June and people throughout the country will come together to mark this historic milestone. For our June edition, we would like to pay our respects to this amazing woman, who is still working hard in her mid-nineties; she is a truly inspirational person. We could do with some help from our readers and would like to encourage any of you who have met the Queen to tell us about the occasion. If you have any royal memories that you would like to share with us, we would like to hear from you. Perhaps you have gone to the palace to receive an honour, or to attend a garden party; your recollections of these would be most welcome. If you have any photos which might be suitable for the occasion, they would be gratefully received. One of these might be suitable for a front cover; or perhaps children from local schools would like to paint a picture which we could use for the cover? All submissions should be emailed to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by 9th May. If you have a photograph but do not have the facility to make a digital image, please call 814059 and we will scan it for you. Many thanks in advance.



Elizabeth Oakley
Editor



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A wedding and the ring were two features of John Barber's fascinating talk given to members at our February meeting. The wedding took place in the idyllic setting of the Château du Cande in France on a June day in 1937. The groom, the former King Edward VIII; his bride, the former Wallis Simpson. The château was owned by Charles Bedaux and his wife Fern who bought it in 1927. Ten years later Edward, Duke of Windsor chose it as a wedding venue, subject to certain improvements being made! John illustrated this part of his talk with a photo of Fern taken by Cecil Beaton who also took the wedding photos.

Now for the ring. This is a delightful cottage on the Audley End Estate, restored by Betty Hanley, niece of Fern Bedaux. Born in the USA in 1915, she studied interior design and decoration at Parsons on the Place Vendôme in Paris. She moved to England in 1947 and later established her own interior decorating and lighting company, Clare House in London. Her talents were highly regarded by royalty and she was given the Royal Warrant for lighting. Her talents for interior design ensured that The Ring Cottage at Audley End was one of the most photographed cottages in England, with its image appearing in magazines at home and abroad; a fact illustrated by a small selection of books and magazines brought in by John for us to peruse. *Renoir* will be the subject of a talk given by a member at our next meeting to be held on **Wednesday 20th April** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. Why not come along!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

The windmill is probably the most iconic building in the village and it certainly enhances many views of Stansted. It can look quite spectacular on a sunny day or when it is floodlit in the evening. We tend to take local attractions for granted and most local people have never climbed to the top of the mill and admired the view but we hope we can attract many first-time visitors this year.

Easter weekend, **Sunday 17th April** and **Monday 18th April** 1.30pm-5.30pm will be the first opportunity to visit and there will be the added attraction of refreshments and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Admission: adults £2, children 50p; or sign up your family to become Millers for an annual subscription of £10.00, which includes free entry to the Windmill on open days and a guide book.



Our mission statement is *"To maintain, preserve and keep as an historical monument the windmill for the benefit of the inhabitants of Stansted."* The Millers are a small group of enthusiastic volunteers who give up their time to fundraise and undertake routine maintenance tasks, but a lot of the work requires specialist skills and equipment for which we employ a specialist millwright. Our photo shows chairman, Tudor Owen liaising with millwright, Paul Kemp. Thanks to Luke Thomas for the photo. The project we are focusing on at the moment is to install stock clamps; large timbers fixed to each side of both stocks (the large cross timbers that support the sail frames) at the centre. This prevents the sail from failing (as happened at another nearby windmill a few years ago!).

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Bridget Gott who was our longest serving Committee member (see page 9). Bridget was a passionate supporter of all our activities and we will miss her wit and wisdom enormously.

Trevor Lloyd
Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk



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STANSTED CIVIL DEFENCE

Dot and John Salmon have provided The Link with many photos of Stansted in former years, which we have all enjoyed so much. Here is the Civil Defence photo which was used as the magazine's front cover in May 2020 to celebrate VE day, 75 years on.



ERNEST BRADFORD, TABOR, RON WATERMAN, WALTER BEDLOW, PERCY SMITH, W. TURNER, WHITE, -

HAROLD ROBINSON, LAURIE ROBINSON, CARTER, JOEY WATSON, JACK MUMFORD, VIC TURNER, TOM LEAVEY, EDDIE ROBERTS, HANDSCOMBS,

- LEN POWELL, RIDGEWELL - BROWN - BUSH, CATON, HARRY BRADFORD.

This comes with a request to our readers: does anyone recognise the chaps in the picture who are not identified? If so, we would love to hear from you. You can email Dot and John directly at dandjsalmon@gmail.com or you can email us at editor@stanstedlink.org.uk. Dot and John sent another fascinating photo of the local Home Guard, which we will publish later this year.

The Link Team



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

A reminder that we are open **every Wednesday** 10.00am-noon for adults only. Free coffee, cakes and biscuits to enjoy in good company - what more could you ask? We even have a jigsaw you can work on. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. If you have children, then please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill*, our new venture for all ages, which opens on Friday 22nd April; see separate article (p3) for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

RECYCLE YOUR OLD SPECTACLES



We are delighted to announce that we can now recycle your old spectacles, in addition to stamps, original (not remanufactured or own brand) ink cartridges, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag). The spectacles are repaired, sized, and cleaned by the local Rotary group, before being sent to wherever they are needed in the world. Please leave all items in the boxes outside the blue main door of the church. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



CONSULTATIONS: WAITING RESTRICTIONS

In the December-January edition of The Link we highlighted several waiting restrictions in different parts of the village for which the Parish Council was considering applying to the North Essex Parking Partnership. As two of the proposals have potential ramifications for residents living outside the proposed areas as well as within them, we are asking for your thoughts on the implementation of waiting restrictions on Chapel Hill and at Foresthall Park. Email parishcouncil@stansted.net



CONSULTATION 1: BENTLEY DRIVE, FORESTHALL PARK

RESTRICTION The first proposal concerns the implementation of No Waiting at Any Time restrictions on the corners of Bentley Drive with Bayford Way. The red lines in the image above show the restrictions would run on the road corners, and the full length of the frontages of houses number 1 and 2 on Bayford Way and also the for the full length of the houses 2 to 6 on Bentley Drive.

REASON Cars parked on the corners of Bentley Drive have the potential to cause traffic accidents by obscuring the views of drivers and pedestrians, while the parking of cars can lead to the narrowing of the road. This not only impedes the the progress of passing traffic, but risks blocking access to emergency service vehicles.

CONSULTATION 2: CHAPEL HILL

RESTRICTION The second proposal calls for No Waiting at Any Time restrictions from the end of the current restriction on the boundary between house numbers 53 and 55, going uphill to the start of the yellow hatched lines outside the fire station. Chapel Hill is an extremely busy road for both vehicles and pedestrians accessing village schools, shops and services. It is also frequently used by the Fire Service.

REASON: A particular pinch point is coming uphill just before the fire station where traffic has to come out and around the parked cars. Once this is negotiated drivers find themselves upon a zebra crossing which is hidden from view until that point. Pedestrians regularly complain that cars do not stop at this crossing.



NEW COUNCILLOR

In February the Parish Council welcomed a new Councillor to its ranks. Peter Jones was co-opted back onto the council, after having previously served the community in this capacity until 2019, when for personal reasons he had to relinquish his position.

Peter is a keen walker and regularly covers the streets, lanes and footpaths of Stansted and feels closely in touch with all areas of the village. "Although the parish is divided into two wards, my approach is to view the village as a single entity," says Peter who was co-opted for the North Ward. "Forest Hall Park and Mountfitchet Estate are as important as Lower Street or the Bentfield area."

Other than for our Parish Council, he has also served as a district councillor for Uttlesford until 1983, and before that as a member of Oxford City Council. Peter's commitment to the community also sees him chair the Airport Working Party, volunteer as a flood warden, and help draft our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Now back on the Council, Peter has in his sights the village's traffic woes and speculative developers taking advantage of Uttlesford's planning department's

troubles. "There is much still to do," he says.

You can contact our newest Parish Councillor at peterjones@stansted.net

ANGLIA IN BLOOM 2022

After last year's success, the village will once again be competing in the Anglia in Bloom garden festival. Stansted picked up a Silver-Gilt prize in the 2021 competition for its entry overall - the second highest level of award.

"It was a pretty good outcome as a first attempt," says Trevor Lloyd, who oversaw the village's entry into the competition. "Especially when you look at some of the places that got the same level of award."

Anglia in Bloom provides a perfect opportunity to show off our village. Areas that benefited last year included Blythwood Gardens (raised flower bed planted with four tulips varieties, as shown on this month's front cover); Cambridge Road, Chapel Hill and Lower Street (hanging baskets); the Memorial Gardens (environmentally friendly perennials); and our village knight signs, which got a major repair and makeover.

The Parish Council will again be supporting the village entry into this year's competition by providing funding and gardening resources. But volunteers' efforts will no doubt play a vital role in putting together a successful bid, and we would encourage residents interested in playing a part to contact Trevor via email lloydtrevor33@gmail.com.



Peter Jones, co-opted back on to the Parish Council recently.

Hanging baskets showing off Cambridge Road for Anglia in Bloom in 2021



NEW FACES ON OUR POLICE BEAT



We have not one, but two fresh faces at Essex Police's community team for Uttlesford who will now be working to provide a reassuring police presence in our village. At the start of the year Police Community Support Officer Nikki Morris moved to a new beat in the district and her role here was filled by Alex Stewart. Alex is now being aided in his duties by Steve Dale, a Stansted resident with several years experience as a special constable gained patrolling the streets of Newport.

Both positions are funded by the Parish Council, though the PCSO role is part funded by Henham & Elsenham too. Special Constable Dale has the same full police powers as his regular colleagues to attend and deal with incidents, and will work almost exclusively in Stansted.

You can contact PCSO Alex Stewart at alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk or via mobile at 07966 135926

Special Constable Steve Dale is contactable at steve.dale@essex.police.uk.

PCSO Alex Stewart (left), Special Constable Steve Dale (right)



PARISH LITTER PICK 2022



A two-day litter pick will get under way at the start of this month. The pandemic disrupted plans to hold our annual tidy ups for the past two years, but now Covid restrictions have ended, we are pleased to welcome back this event to the Council calendar.

If you would like to join hands with the Parish Council to tidy the village, meet outside the Day Centre /Library on Saturday, April 2 at 10am where you will be greeted by participating Councillors who will be issuing you with refuse bags and pickers, before heading out with you across the village to bag litter. The pick will end at noon. The baton then passes to the MountPickers, who will also be meeting outside the Day Centre the next day -Sunday, April 3- at 10am for their own litter patrol.

For further details contact Parish Councillors:

loisprior@stansted.net

georgebraeckman@stansted.net

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Alan Dean
District Councillor
Stansted North
reports



The last time I wrote in The Link was in October, when we were still awaiting the result of the planning appeal about development west of Pennington Lane. It was a relief to many people when the planning inspector's decision to dismiss the appeal came through later that month – though after The Link had gone to press.

I mention that because in early February planning appeals brought about what is probably the biggest issue currently to confront Uttlesford District Council; maybe even the biggest shock since UDC was created in the 1970s.

Inadequate Performance

It all began on the 7th with a letter from the Minister of State for Housing saying: "The Secretary of

State...considers that there are respects in which the local planning authority at Uttlesford District Council...is not adequately performing their function of determining planning applications for major applications [over 10 houses or over 1 hectare of land]."

This means that planning permission applicants now have the option of applying either to UDC in the normal way, or by bypassing the district council and applying instead to the national Planning Inspectorate. Time will tell how this will pan out. I am aware that there are some new applicants who have decided to continue with the Council's decision-making channels.

Designated Status

Uttlesford is now the only council in England that is currently in this so-called "designation" category. There has been no other council so designated for about eight years; it's not common and it's nothing to be proud of.



Uttlesford District Council is in the firing line for refusing too many planning applications

It has now come to light that the risk of this happening was first flagged up in 2018 and again in the past two years. However, few people within UDC knew. No-one did much or anything effective to tackle the underlying problems, which apparently are about the Council refusing too many planning applications that appeal inspectors think were in accordance with planning policy and rules, and so should have been approved by UDC.

There have been protests that the government's decision flouts local democracy. But quasi judicial decisions that planning officers and councillors make should conform with planning laws and regulations.

Two Years to Get Back to Normal

The planning set-up at Uttlesford is undergoing major changes of staff. Councillors involved in planning will also have to learn new skills. It may take around two years for UDC to get back its normal local planning responsibilities. In the meantime, I just hope that poor plans do not get through this unprecedented approval system that would have been avoided had the alarm bells been heard and acted on some years ago.

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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Trainee Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick
Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen
Communications Officer Dan Schlanker
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net Phone: 01279 813214
Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-1pm
Website: stansted.net Facebook: stansted.parishcouncil
Instagram: stansted@parishcouncil Twitter: @StanstedMPC

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are back at the Mountfitchet Exchange. Attend in person or virtually. NB questions can be asked at the start of Full Council meetings only; permission is needed to film or record proceedings.

- April 13 Full Council
- April 20 Open Spaces 8pm

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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

Special Police Constable Steve Dale
email: steve.dale@essex.police.uk
PCSO Alex Stewart tel: 101 (non-emergency)
email: alex.stewart@essex.police.uk
Look out for details of community engagement events in April at Facebook/EPUttlesford

LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:
Tuesday 9am-1pm Wednesday 2pm-5.30pm
Thursday 2pm-7pm Saturday 9am-5pm

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The bi-monthly garden waste skip service has now resumed for the year. A refuse truck will be parked in the Lower Street Car Park 12.30pm-4.30pm:

- April 3
- April 17

DEFIBRILLATORS

There are seven public access defibrillators spread around Stansted and close-by. Call 999 to get a key-code to access a 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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- The Bowls Club, The Recreation Ground, CM24 8BD
- Lower Street Telephone Box, CM24 8LP
- The Surgery, Castle Maltings, CM24 8XG
- Romeera Leisure Centre, Forest Hall Road CM24 8TZ
- Rose & Crown Public House, Bentfield Green, CM24 8HX
- Three Horseshoes Public House, Hazel End, CM23 1HB

Tesco (Cambridge Road) & Conneely Group Braemar House (Water Lane) have defibrillators accessible while doors are open.



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RANDOM JOTTINGS

On the morning of storm Eunice in February I managed to get out for a quick walk around the village before the wind speed went off the scale. Being bin day there was a lot of paper and cardboard blowing around as a result of toppled wheelie bins spilling out their contents. I rescued three kerbside waste food caddies from the middle of the road on the way, and dodged the odd falling twig, branch and even a rather large tree. However, amid all the damage and flying debris I was pleasantly surprised to spot a pair of ducks on Bentfield duck pond, completely oblivious to the chaos all around. Covered in a blanket of algae until quite recently, there has been little sign of anything else either living in, or on the water for months. It was so lovely to see the pond filled to the brim with clear water and once again attracting wildlife. Long may it continue to thrive.



The snowdrops were magnificent this year. A few days after the storms, I came across swathes of them carpeting the grass verge while walking along Lime Kiln Lane. Pausing to admire the flowers I was also treated to the sight of a small muntjac deer trotting from one side of the lane to the other just a few yards in front of me. I was too slow to get a photo of the deer, but I did manage to take one of the snowdrops.



Yvonne Ayres

FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

World Book Day

Students at the school took part in a range of activities to mark World Book Day. They were challenged to write their own stories on just two sides of A4 paper with the title *The Impossible* and create their own book covers as part of the celebrations. A cake party not only encouraged students to engage in reading but raised a total of £105 for the Red Cross in support of the people of Ukraine.

Hannah Stuart, subject leader of English, said: "We gave out book tokens and had fantastic discussions at the cake party about books which both staff and students have been reading. We promote reading throughout our school day, therefore it was important for us to celebrate World Book Day and enjoy cake at the same time!"

Kelly Clark

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



We welcomed Teresa Buglass, the Practice Manager at the surgery, to our last meeting. She told us that new members of staff are being employed and there has been a great increase in the services provided. A new GP is joining the team and another returning from maternity leave. They now have a paramedic and a physiotherapist working with the team and are hoping to add a dietician shortly. We are still required to use the system of speaking to a doctor on the telephone when requesting an appointment, as this helps them to organise their day by using the appropriate professional for each patient. The Covid Vaccination programme, which included people from surrounding villages, added greatly to their workload. They are expecting to give a fourth booster to vulnerable adults and to vaccinate younger age groups. They were involved with the refugees from Afghanistan, who were living in hotels at the airport, and needed care as well as clothing. There is a big push for surgeries to provide digital consultations, but people would need to be involved in discussions about this. She said she would like to come again and possibly with a GP.

Our Meeting on 14th April 7.15pm for 7.30pm at the Day Centre **will be open to everyone** and will be a FLOG IT fundraising event in aid of Whitechapel Mission. We will be providing refreshments; it is the WI so we must have cakes, a bumper raffle and accessory and book stalls. Please bring along an item suitable for auction, as we must have things to flog! Everyone is very welcome; you do not have to be a WI member.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

THE FIRE IS OUT

Keith Flint, the former frontman of The Prodigy, touched the hearts of thousands of people around the world with his music and persona. The news of his suicide, on 4th March 2019, shook the world. One person impacted by this loss was Adrian Weaver who wrote a charity single in honour of Keith's memory called *The Fire is Out*, released in March.



All proceeds from the single will go to the charity *Mind* in West Essex. The download is available for a £5 donation, or the CD, which is limited to 100 copies, costs £7. The CD can be purchased from Saffron Walden Tourist Information Centre, or from www.mindinwestessex.org.uk from where you can also download the track.

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Mind Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator
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This article is a plea for help, and you may be able to provide it. We are trying to recruit more listeners for our service. The *Talking Newspaper* is a weekly recording of local news taken from the Bishop's Stortford Independent and the Dunmow Broadcast. It is a free service, including postage and all necessary equipment, for anyone who is visually impaired or who cannot manage a newspaper because of some physical disability. The recording comes on a USB stick and we normally provide listeners with a special player for the purpose. The restrictions placed on all of us over the past two years have highlighted the problems of social isolation. We know from our existing listeners how much they have appreciated the Talking Newspaper keeping them in touch with local news brought to them by local voices. We are sure that there are many others who would feel the same if they were aware of it. These same restrictions have, however, made it much more difficult for us to identify new listeners, so please give serious thought as to whether you know anyone who might benefit.



The Talking Newspaper is also available via a Listen Online facility on our website, which can be used by anyone, whether visually impaired or not. It is also possible to access the recordings via links such as Alexa. If that appeals, please contact us, and one of our technicians will be able to provide assistance if required. For more information or with suggestions about possible new listeners please contact me. Maybe you would like to volunteer? If so we would like to hear from you. It is very rewarding and not too time-consuming, as there is a rota.

Richard Barnett
Tel: 651270 or 07918 296764

WATCH FOUND

I recently found a watch in the Stansted area and would love to return it to its owner. If you think it may be yours, please call or text me.

Jane Granger
Tel: 817560 Mob: 07857 625724

It has been a very busy start to 2022 for the TouchPoint team at the Crafton Green community buildings. Our Community Café continues to be open on Thursdays 11.00am-5.00pm. The first tea and coffee is always free of charge and we serve very reasonably priced light lunches and cakes. We are now also open on Fridays 11.30am-4.00pm. In partnership with St Clare Hospice, we run a fortnightly Bereavement Café. We have also recently launched a dementia friendly café, *Forget Me Not*. There are separate articles about these below. On Fridays at 2.15pm we are offering free digital skills and confidence building sessions with our tech expert, Vic. Please come along if you need any help or advice.

We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding for a Community Fridge, which will help reduce food waste. We are working hard to launch it soon and if you would like to be involved please get in touch. More plans are in the pipeline and we will keep you posted.

Shirley Johnson
Email: shirley@thetouchpoint.org

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

I regularly attend the Bereavement Café organised by Touchpoint in partnership with St Clare Hospice, which is held at the Day Centre on the first and third Wednesday of each month 10.00am-11.30am; in April that is the 6th and 20th. If you are thinking of going but are not quite sure about it, then I hope my thoughts below, written last November, may encourage you.

Having just returned from the first Bereavement Café meeting, my heart is overflowing. The six of us who were there had all lost someone very precious to us, in very different ways. We laughed and cried together and can't wait to meet again next month.

Sue Hitchmough
Tel: 814265



TOUCHPOINT DEMENTIA CAFÉ

Are you caring for or living with someone affected by Dementia or Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would just like to chat? In partnership with *The Forget Me Not Café* in Saffron Walden we are pleased to open **every Friday morning 10.00am-noon** at Touchpoint in Stansted Day Centre. Please do come along to our Dementia Café and enjoy companionship, support, activities, information, advice and of course refreshments. Please contact me for further information.

Jennifer Jarvis
Tel: 07900 123917

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Looking For Volunteers!

Spring term is in full force with the Guides and we are delighted to be back to live guiding after a stint of virtual sessions. The girls have been having great fun this term thinking about their aspirations for the future, learning about brilliant rôle models, and celebrating International Women's Day; we are excited for what next term has to bring.



We are looking for some willing volunteers to help look after the unit whilst our current leaders go on maternity leave in the summer. The unit has lots of lovely, dedicated girls, and a couple of young leaders who are an incredible help each week. We are keen to keep the unit running so the girls can benefit from a wonderful space where they meet like-minded girls, go on adventures, learn new skills, make new friends, and most importantly have fun! If you are able to support our marvellous unit and volunteer any of your time over the coming months, we would love to hear from you, so please do drop us an email. We can't wait to hear from you and tell you more about our incredible unit.

Gemma Schafer and Jemma Smyth
Guide Leaders
Email: elsenhamsguides@gmail.com



Our aim is to support and promote local businesses through networking and publishing our Stansted directory. We are now holding monthly breakfast and networking meetings again and it has been good to meet up with members. We had an interesting meeting recently when two speakers gave members useful information relating to their business. Linda Howells from the Economic Development Team at Uttlesford District Council told us about the range of resources that are available to businesses. The Uttlesford Business Support Guide and their website www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business have a lot of information about starting up or developing a new business including training courses; and getting specialist support for existing

businesses, including introductions to finance, digital skills, cyber security and grants. Health and Wellbeing is also important as stress and anxiety can affect small businesses in particular.

Maureen Caton, Chairman of the Parish Council, gave us an update on local issues and asked those who were at the meeting to be part of the Stansted Economic Development Group. This is being set up again with a view to ensuring that businesses are part of local decision making. Input from businesses is important, particularly for contributing to the local plan for Stansted and other important issues such as parking in the village. Our next meeting is on **Friday 1st April** 7.00am for 7.30am at The Linden. Contact James Garrett on info@communityengagementconsultants.co.uk to book your place.



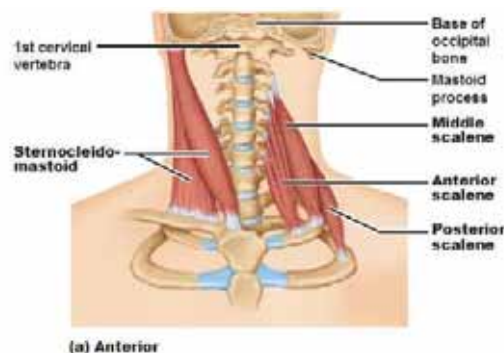
Iris Evans
Treasurer

BRAIN TRAINING

www.clareharding.com

Increasing Blood Flow to the Brain and helping Insomnia

Last month I described tight shoulders and sleep struggles. This month tackles some pesky muscles at the front of the throat. When they get tight, the base of the skull, the occiput, gets compressed and this restricts blood flow to the brain and stress levels rise. These muscles pull the skull back and down and are called the sternocleidomastoids (SCMs) and the Scalenes – this name always sounds like a disease to me! An example of this head position is the Verger in *Dad's Army*. To stretch this area out, stick your fingers in your earholes and your little fingers by your eye sockets. Lift your earholes to as near level with your eyes as you can get them. This will take your head forwards. Holding that position, now move the very top of your upper back backwards, holding the chest and low back still. Hopefully you'll get a stretch across the base of the skull.



The second part of this stretch and another way to increase blood flow to the brain is to breathe out. Another function of the SCMs/Scalenes is to raise the ribs on a full inhalation, so exhale and lower the ribs when stretching the SCMs out. It has been found that decreased blood flow to the brain is associated with hyperventilation, high stress levels and insomnia. A third way of raising blood flow to the brain is getting reasonably out of breath for about 30 minutes. The effort level required is 6/10, with 0 being resting and 10 flat out. Three ideas, all interrelated and all giving huge benefits. Result!

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 816430

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Society has now sold all 800 copies of its first hardback book *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There will be no reprint, although we may write a second book. Preparation of our first book took several years and was only possible because of the vast resource of what had already been written about individual places, people and events. The Society holds more than 300 local books and pamphlets. Our website has recently been updated to ensure, amongst other things, that individual parish introductions include references to their share of available literature. A good number of local books are available, in person or online, from the four excellent outlets which have sold many copies of the Hundred Parishes book: *Harts* and *The Tourist Information Centres* in Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford, and *Between the Lines* bookshop in Great Bardfield.



A few parishes have no book of their own, or just a pamphlet in the church, whilst other places have extensive coverage. One of our trustees, Peter Sanders, conducted research for 30 years before compiling a definitive history of Stansted Mountfitchet. Another easy-to-read classic, *Littlebury: A Parish History*, was produced by a team of authors. I have recently been absorbed by a largely pictorial history of Sewards End, and the 4th edition of *Around Cold Christmas*, not least because the latter has frequent references to my wife's distant relatives. Clavering's Jacqueline Cooper always seems to be working on a book about Clavering or Saffron Walden. Several local history societies have generated books or booklets, or have work in progress. So rich is our local history that there is no shortage of reading material or potential subject matter.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

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RSPB

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

Since restarting we have enjoyed five extremely successful months and our group is thriving. Membership has boomed and we are so pleased with the significant number of new members. Several of these heard about our group through The Link and we appreciate the support and publicity we are given by this publication. We have a full programme planned through to the end of July. We usually have three monthly events which follow general principles and April is no exception:

- On the second Tuesday there is an indoor meeting at Bishop's Park Community Centre at 7.30pm. On **Tuesday 12th April** Ian Alexander presents *Camouflage without Spots*, a lively mix of talk and demonstration of animal camouflage, *Why birds can be hard to spot*.
- One weekend every month we visit a major reserve, meeting at the location at 10.00am. On **Sunday 24th April** we plan to visit Essex Wildlife Trust at Fingringhoe Wick. This is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) overlooking the Colne Estuary, renowned for its nightingales (see photo) and our visit will hopefully coincide with theirs!
- Each month there is a weekday bird walk, usually in the last week, meeting at the starting location at 10.00am, and following a flexible route ending at a venue for refreshments. This month we meet on **Wednesday 27th April** at Albury, Village Hall, The Bourne, Albury, Ware SG11 2JD with refreshments at The Catherine Wheel.



Full details of all our events and a downloadable programme are available on our website. Reminders and details are sent via email and posted in our Facebook group. To receive reminders and other emails please contact me.

Peter Allen
Tel: 07876295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com



**A Happy Easter to all
our Readers!**

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

At our monthly general meeting on 17th February, the attendees were the most numerous since the start of the pandemic. The talk, a fascinating and entertaining history of Stansted Hall, was given by Tanya Fern-Smith to both our members and, thanks to Zoom, to members of the Town Twinning Association in Rungis, France. Thank you to Richard Haywood and Bob Dean for their joint technical expertise and to Liz Johnson for giving the introduction to the meeting in French. Tanya lives at Stansted Hall and manages it. She spoke with considerable knowledge and evident enthusiasm. Her talk was greatly appreciated, and we hope to follow it up with a conducted tour of the Hall, perhaps when friends from Rungis visit in the summer.



Before the meeting Jo Brooks showcased the Art House Film Group with a display of some of the films from different periods and cultures which are presented and discussed each month. On Saturday 19th February Touchpoint opened to coincide with the library's *Love your Library* event. We joined the event to promote the benefits of u3a membership. There was a fun display of work from the Knitting and Crochet Group as well as some beautiful examples of the Card Makers' work, all of which provoked much interest. At the general meeting on 21st April we will again be visited by Peter Regelous who will give his talk *A Funny Thing happened on the Way to Life*. Peter recalls some of the colourful characters he came across during his past life in showbiz. If you are retired, part time or fully, and are looking to have some fun by learning something new, pursuing an existing interest and socialising with a friendly group of people, then do join us. **Learn, Laugh and Live!**

Anne White
Tel: 07874 385541
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our March meeting, Jenny Oxley from Saffron Walden Museum gave a talk on the *Piano Hoard Treasure*. She introduced the background of the museum from the early 1800s and explained the wishes of the trustees in 1845 to *Cultivate a taste for the beautiful in Nature* and to illustrate *The Arts, Manufactures and Habits of different nations*. There are over 175,000 items in this museum which is big by provincial museum standards.

She then told us about the remarkable recent discovery of packages of gold coins, formed of full and half sovereigns, found in a piano which was being tuned. The piano was owned by a college in Shropshire. It had been supplied by the makers, Broadwood, to a shop in Saffron Walden in the early 1900s, but little is known of its whereabouts until the 1980s when a family acquired it; they gifted it to the Shropshire college after owning the piano for 33 years. The find was reported to the coroner and, after being examined by the British Museum, was duly declared Treasure Trove after no owners could be found, although on hearing the news, many came forward to claim it! Saffron Walden Museum showed an interest, because of the town's connection, and acquired the piano and a representative selection of thirteen coins. The 913 coins ranged from late Victorian to the early 1900s. Some had been packed in old cereal boxes which helped date part of the find. The piano, with the coins, now forms a museum display. This was a thoroughly entertaining evening with good attendance. At our next meeting on **Thursday 7th April** 7.45pm for 8.00pm in the Day Centre, John Scraggs will talk to us about *Photographs of local airfields*.

Roger Barrett
Tel: 814216
Email: rmbartlett54@gmail.com



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

By the time this article is published we will be deep into preparation for the 2022 outdoor bowls season; hopefully the green will soon be ready for action. The Club suffered pretty significant damage due to storm Eunice, with fencing panels and posts damaged and part of our veranda roof was lost. We will be calling on all existing members to help repair the storm damage as well as with the normal pre-season preparations, including getting the benches and garden furniture cleaned and ready for use. We were hoping to replace some of these this year but, with storm damage repairs now needed, that may have to wait. Our first home bowls match is on **Saturday 30th April**, but even before that the Steeple Bumpstead Pairs League will have played its first away match. After that there is a busy programme of league and friendly matches until September, so I hope our members are ready and able to play regularly.

There will be many opportunities for new members as well, so this would be a really good year to get involved. At the end of May, Bowls England arrange a *Bowls' Big Weekend* with events throughout the country. This year we will be participating with an open day event so look out for leaflets and posters around the village. This will give anyone interested the chance to try the green and test their skill with a couple of fun competitions, maybe even with prizes! To find out more about the Club, please contact me.

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



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The First Team now move into the final month of the season hoping to finish the season in a playoff position; this could possibly lead to promotion to Step 4 and the Isthmian Football League. Whilst having tasted defeat in one cup semi-final we are also striving to reach the final of the League Cup with both the semi and final being played in April. The league remaining fixtures are becoming very tight to schedule partly due to the wet weather in February and March which caused several postponements. Another reason was the decision of the FA to reduce the National League season by a week meaning all non-league matches must finish on 23rd April; we will be playing two and possibly three games in a week to comply with the date. Fortunately, our remaining away games are close by, at Saffron Walden (2nd April), Hoddesdon Town (5th April) and Takeley (23rd April). Our Over 45s will continue their season into May but with Hargrave Park becoming a cricket facility from 30th April they will be having to source alternative venues to play home matches.



Finally, the Club would publicly wish to congratulate our first team manager Paul Pittuck on achieving the remarkable record of over 200 games in charge, at a level when the majority of clubs are always swapping and changing managers; our Club is fortunate to have such a dedicated person at the helm of team affairs.

Fixtures at Hargrave Park in April:

9 th	v Southend Manor	3.00pm	ESL Premier Division
12 th	v Little Oakley	7.45pm	ESL Premier Division
16 th	v White Ensign	3.00pm	ESL Premier Division

Any changes will be announced on our social media websites.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com



The Club begins the season in mid-April with friendlies against Stansted and Thorley. The Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) matches begin on 30th April with the 1st XI hosting Abridge and the 2nd XI travelling to Sawbridgeworth III. In the HEBL Cup the 1st XI play at Stansted on 24th May and the 2nd XI play Hockerill II away in the HEBL Shield. The Juniors are waiting for fixtures to be announced, but they will be playing at all age groups in the West Essex District League. Our young players have been netting at Hockerill School and some players have been trialling for the district team. Work at the Molehill Green ground has been completed and the Club looks forward to seeing many junior matches at the ground this season. It is a lovely ground in a quiet location and the facilities are excellent; we have recently purchased a mobile net. Our junior All Stars 5–8 year group will use the ground this season on Friday evenings.

The Club has been busy during the winter months trying to raise money in various ways including a successful Quiz Night run by Jason Brown. The Club also had a small Presentation Evening for the 1st XI who won the Premier Division in 2021. The Club continues to look for members of all ages; if you are interested, please contact me as below. Roll on the summer – please let the sun shine!



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



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Club Sessions are held on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Men's Club nights are on the first Monday of every month and ladies' nights are on the second and fourth Mondays. These sessions are open to adult members and non-members (paying a £2 visitor fee).

LTA qualified coach Ollie Toms continues his popular coaching programme for juniors and adults. Please contact him on 07917 652014 or visit www.olliestennis.co.uk for more information. We are also looking to offer beginners' coaching if there is sufficient demand, so please contact Ollie to register your interest. Used tennis balls can be purchased from Jan Hollis, for £1 per tube of four. Please email janhollis@btinternet.com for more information.



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Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Foster Tel: 07818 417971
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Jeanette Mansell, Hon Secretary Tel: 01371 821446	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: peterlathamz@outlook.com
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History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stansted.net
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 07759 157620 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	u3a	Susan Sedgbeer Email: bertiestar@gmail.com
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com	WI (Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: help@letstalkstansted.org	WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768		
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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