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by
Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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

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

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

We are delighted to report that despite a lot of competition we have been able to book Santa for a visit again this year. He has found time in his busy schedule to spend some time with us on the afternoon of **Saturday 10th December**. The first floor of the mill will be transformed into a festive grotto and Santa will bring gifts for all the children. He has promised to arrive in time to greet children from 1.00pm and he will be on his way by 5.00pm so the queue will close at 4.30pm. There is a small charge of £4.00 per child which will go towards Santa's expenses and the mill restoration fund. We debated increasing the charge to £5.00 but decided it would not be right at a time when the rising cost of living is making Christmas a stressful time for many families. There will be no professional photographer trying to sell you expensive pictures but you are welcome to take your own photos. Our photo shows Joy Thomas with her grandson meeting Santa.



Mill souvenirs will be on sale and there will be refreshments. We look forward to seeing many of you and sharing the true spirit of Christmas with you; even if you are past a Santa experience you would be very welcome to drop by for seasonal refreshments. If you are unable to come to the Mill on this occasion, the Millers would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and the best possible 2023.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 810805

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

www.elsenhamscommunityassociation.org.uk

If you are thinking it is beginning to sound a bit like Christmas, then you would be right; we are busy rehearsing for our festive performance on **Saturday 10th December** at 6.00pm in The Crown, Elsenham. Be sure not to miss it. Since starting in 2019 we have progressed and learned, but also had much fun and laughter. Join us on the first and third Tuesdays 7.00pm-8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall. Why not make it your New Year's resolution? It is only £2 a session. Go on, give it a go, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain; just turn up. Merry Christmas everyone and let us hope that 2023 is kind to us all.



Elaine Terry
Tel: 07962 586825

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Churches Together in Stansted welcome everyone for a Celebration of Christmas with Carols in the Memorial Gardens by St John's Church on **Saturday 17th December** at 4.00pm. We are fortunate to have the Bishop's Stortford Brass Band once again. This is a standing event, so please bring your own chair if you need one. Children may like to bring lanterns and torches to create a festive atmosphere. Parking restrictions will be lifted in St John's Road and parking will also be available at Magna Carta Primary School. I look forward to seeing you there.

David Morson
Tel: 850209



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Christmas Special

We are all getting excited about our special event on **Friday 23rd December** 9.15am-11.30am when we have Christmas themed activities for all ages, including making Christingles, and hopefully a visit from Santa. What he will bring for the children? We are in the Free Church Hall which is warm and comfortable, and there will be our usual free refreshments. It will be the school holidays, so why not join us and save on your home heating bill? There is limited free parking in the church car park. We will be open **every Wednesday** throughout December and January. See you there!



Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

STANSTED FIRE STATION



We will be holding our first ever Christmas Open Evening on **Friday 2nd December** 4.00pm-8.00pm when we plan to have all sorts of festive stalls and games, with all our appliances open and available to the public. We hope to see you there.

Steve Perry
Tel: 01376 575830
Email: stansted.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk





CHRISTMAS EVENTS



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH



Here is our list of Christmas events at St Mary's to get us all in the festive mood:

Friday 9th December 5.00pm

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King by *thisismytheatre*
Tickets from Goldings, Chapel Hill (cash only), call 07732 253311 or visit www.thisismytheatre.com.

Saturday 10th December

Christmas Tree Festival, 11.00am-4.00pm; Carol Service 4.00pm. Do come early to get your seat.

Sunday 11th December

Christmas Tree Festival 11.00am-5.00pm, with special guests *Stansted Mountfitchet u3a Strummers* at 3.00pm and 4.00pm. Back by popular demand; they are sure to have us dancing in the aisles! With refreshments, mulled wine and raffles on both days, please help support St Mary's Church.

Wednesday 14th December

I am pleased to add a special extra Carol Service at 7.00pm for Forest Hall School, featuring *Blue Skies Big Band* for a swinging Christmas. A fun night with some wonderful singers and musicians, not to be missed!

On behalf of myself and the Committee, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year and look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's in 2023.

Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474

Family Craft and Carols

www.stanstedchurches.com

A Christmas event for all ages

Come to our special Christmas event on **Sunday 11th December** 3.30pm-5.00pm in St John's Hall and try your hand at a variety of Christmas crafts suitable for different ages and abilities. Join the singing of child-friendly carols: traditional and modern, lively and more reflective, some very familiar, others not so well-known but easy and fun to pick up. Through the songs we tell the Christmas story, and involve some of the finished crafts. For children who would like to, there will be the opportunity to dress-up as characters from the Christmas story, or children are welcome to come dressed in character. At the end there will be light refreshments for everyone. There is no cost, and no need to book. The event is more likely to appeal to families with primary school aged children, but all ages are welcome. Please note under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. If travelling by car, please park in Magna Carta School car park next to the church. This event is being run by the Messy Church Team on behalf of Churches Together in Stansted. We look forward to seeing you there for a fun afternoon of crafting and carols!



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

St John's (Church of England)

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

9.30am Holy Communion

New Year's Day Sunday 1st January

9.30am Holy Communion

Free Church (Methodist and URC)

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

10.30am Carol Service

New Year's Day Sunday 1st January

No service

Stansted Quakers (Society of Friends)

Sunday 18th December

10.30am Christmas Celebration with readings and music

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

No Meeting

New Year's Day Sunday 1st January

10.30am Meeting for Worship

St Theresa's (Catholic)

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December

6.00pm and 9.00pm Mass

Christmas Day Sunday 25th December

10.00am Mass

New Year's Day Sunday 1st January

10.00am Mass



HARMONAIRES CHRISTMAS CONCERT

www.theharmonaireschoir.com

Family Christmas Concert in aid of Shelter

Take an hour out of Christmas shopping on **Saturday 10th December** at 11.00am in St Michael's Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford to enjoy a family friendly, whistle-stop tour of many of your favourite carols and Christmas songs.



Plenty of audience sing-alongs, together with jingle bells, this will get you all into the real spirit of Christmas. Not to be missed! Tickets: £5 adults, £3 children, available from our website.

Elizabeth Jennings
Email: jenningselizabeth4@gmail.com

Stansted Fire Station Christmas Open Evening



4 - 8 pm Fri 2nd Dec

**Festive Stalls
Games for all ages
Explore fire appliances
Everyone Welcome**

Our first ever Christmas open evening
More info call 01376 575830



11 am Sun 4th Dec

Grange Paddocks B Stortford

Entry: 13+ £12 incl Santa Suit
Under 13 £6 incl Reindeer Antlers
and medal

*Book in advance at
www.mencapgrovecottage.org
or on the day from 10 am*



**In the Fen
Country**

3 pm Sun 4th Dec

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Vaughan Williams *In the Fen Country*,
Korngold *Violin Concerto*
Shostakovich *Symphony No 12*

Soloist Alex Redington

Adults £17 & £20 under 18s £5 from
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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

December

1	Thu	History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
2	Fri	Christmas Open Evening	Fire Station 4 - 8 pm
4	Sun	Grove Cottage Santa dash	Grange Paddocks 11 am
		Saffron Symphony Orchestra	Saffron Hall 3 pm
6	Tue	Stansted is well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club Party	Day Centre 7.30 pm
8	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.15 for 7.30 pm
9	Fri	This is my Theatre	St Mary's Church 5 pm
		Twinning Cheese and Wine	Day Centre 7.30 pm
10	Sat	Santa in his Grotto	Stansted Windmill 1 - 5 pm
10 Sat / 11		Sun Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm
11	Sun	Family Craft and Carols	St John's Hall 3.30 - 5 pm
13	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
17	Sat	Celebration of Christmas	Memorial Gardens 4 pm
23	Fri	Fun Place Christmas Special	Free Church Hall 9.15 - 11.30 am

January

3	Tue	Stansted is well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
5	Thu	History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Mon	Link copy due in today	before noon
12	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.15 for 7.30 pm
18	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
19	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
21	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
29	Sun	Music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm



**Friends of St Mary's
Church**

The Nutcracker and the Mouse King
5 pm Fri 9th Dec

Tickets from www.thisismytheatre.com
07732 253311 or Goldings, Chapel Hill

Christmas Tree Festival

11 am - 5 pm Sat 10th & Sun 11th Dec

Carol Service 4 pm Sat 10th
Stansted U3A Strummers 3 & 4 pm Sun 11th

Refreshments ~ Entry Free



**Stansted Town Twinning
CHEESE AND WINE**

**7.30 pm Fri 9th Dec
Day Centre**

Tickets £10 from 07833 089298

Email: twinning@stansted.net

Mini Quiz ~ Guess the Cheese

Live video link to Rungis

In aid of Twinning events



**Christmas
Special**

9.15 - 11.30 am Fri 23rd Dec

Stansted Free Church Hall

Join the **fun** themed activities
for all ages including making
Christingles plus a visit from **Santa**
No charge and all ages welcome
Children please bring an adult



3 pm Sun 29th Jan

St John's Church

Charlie Lovell-Jones **Violin**

**Bach ~ Grieg ~ Paganini
Saint Saëns ~ Tchaikovsky**

*Tickets: adults £15, conc £12
under 18s free, from:
Sonia Levy 815282 or on the door*



Stansted Millers

Santa at the Mill



1 - 5 pm Sat 10th Dec

Last entry at 4.30 pm

Mince Pies, Mulled Wine

Tea, Coffee, Squash

Raffle and Mill Tours

Entry £4 per child for Mill funds



**Celebration of
Christmas**



**Carols and Readings
With B S Brass Band**

4 pm Sat 17th Dec

Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill

**Words provided - bring a chair
and lantern or torch**

Suitable for all ages - please join us



10 am - noon

Sat 17th Dec & 21st Jan

www.uglevillage.org.uk

Ugley Village Hall

Meat ~ Fish ~ Fruit and Veg

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Refreshments and Free Parking

For info and future dates tel 814052

Family Craft and Carols

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 11th Dec

St John's Church Hall

Please park in Magna Carta School

Exciting Christmas crafts for all ages

Dress up and be part of the Nativity

Everything free including food

No need to book - just turn up

**Organised by the Messy Church team
www.stanstedchurches.com**



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



MANUDEN CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Our village Christmas Tree Festival is at St Mary's Church, Manuden on **Saturday 10th** and **Sunday 11th December** 10.30am-3.30pm. There will be children singing at 12.30pm and informal carols at 3.00pm on both days.



There will be crafts and activities for the children, and tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake will be available. The festival is in aid of repairs to the church. Entry is by donation please. We would love to see you.

Glynis Prothero
Email: glynisprothero@aol.com

SOUTH SEAS CHRISTMAS PUDDING

This is a much lighter version of the traditional Christmas Pudding. It can be frozen and reheated in a microwave oven.

Ingredients

225g can pineapple rings
4oz / 100g soft margarine
4oz / 100g caster sugar
2oz / 50g glacé cherries, quartered
1oz / 25g angelica, chopped
2oz / 50g fresh breadcrumbs
2oz / 50g stoned raisins
Grated rind of one orange
2 eggs, beaten
3oz / 75g self-raising flour
2 tablespoons golden syrup

Method

Drain pineapple. Reserve three half rings and chop remainder coarsely
Cream margarine and sugar
Add orange rind and beat in eggs
Fold in flour and breadcrumbs
Add chopped pineapple, raisins, cherries, and angelica. Mix well
Butter a 1½ pint / 1 litre basin, put syrup in bottom, and arrange pineapple rings in a circle
Spoon sponge mixture on top and level it. Cover with buttered paper and foil, and steam for 1¾ hours.

Lesley Graver
Email: lesley.graver@gmail.com



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

What a grand time we all had during our Halloween week; it was fantastic to see so many of you having the most brilliant fun on the farm. Thank you so much for coming, the animals loved seeing you all. We are now getting ready for Christmas and once again, hold on to your Santa hats as there will be so much to do. Mr and Mrs Claus will be joining us again this year and Mrs Claus will be reading Christmas stories to the children whilst they enjoy a hot chocolate before getting their gifts. Afterwards, a snowy walk through the Winter Woodland is a must. There will also be plenty of Christmas crafts to enjoy and the animals must have to have a fuss made of them and maybe a few treats too. Make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page and website for our Christmas opening days and times as booking will be essential and you do not want to miss out on all the festive fun. These events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals and we can only do this with your help and support. We are at Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN. We look forward to seeing you in the new year and merry Christmas to you all! Thank you all so much.



Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973




www.mencapgrovecottage.org

A reminder of our *Santa Dash and Reindeer Run* on **Sunday 4th December** at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre. Run, jog, skip or walk the 1k or the 5k route. Entry: £12 for ages 13 plus, which includes a full five-piece Santa Suit to keep. For ages 12 and under entry is £6, which includes reindeer antlers and a festive medal to take home.



The run starts at 11.00am with the warm-up at 10.45am. Book in advance through our website or register from 10.00am on the day.

Alison Cameron
Tel: 651908



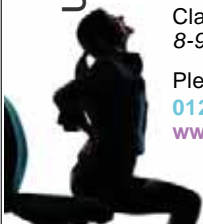


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EDITORIAL



It is so good to see that Christmas has returned to how it should be. I hope you enjoyed looking through the wonderful Christmas events and services shown in the last few pages. Thanks so much to Paul Burt for the marvellous cover photo; there is such joy and delight on the faces of the singing Santas, which Paul has captured so brilliantly. This has been a great year for front cover pictures; our warmest gratitude to all of you readers who have provided us with such a variety of lovely photographs.

It has been such a strange year, with tumultuous and sad events taking place both home and abroad. Let us hope that next year will be a great deal less dramatic and more comfortable for all of us. Wishing all our readers, advertisers and contributors a memorable Christmas and a calm and happy New Year.

Ed



www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Please help us at this difficult time

It is not surprising that we are even busier than usual as many households are becoming increasingly concerned about their financial situation. We are often the first point of call when people are worried about benefit entitlements, housing issues or money problems, or need advice about their rights at work, information about carers support or a referral to another community organisation such as Uttlesford Foodbank.

At times like these, people often ask us what they can do to help others who are struggling. If you have some time to spare, please think about joining our amazing team of volunteers. You would make a real difference to people's lives and have a positive impact on your community by giving information and advice that empowers people to tackle the root cause of their issues and find a way forward. We have lots of volunteer opportunities available; please contact us to find out more. Like many charities, funding is challenging for us, and we have to make difficult choices about how we deliver our service. If you would like to make a donation to support our work, you will be helping to provide a lifeline for someone, by making sure a trained adviser is able to offer them the support they need. You can donate via our website or post to: Uttlesford Citizens Advice, Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB.

Perhaps you can manage without your winter fuel allowance this year? If so, you could help local people unable to heat their homes by donating it to *Uttlesford Share the Warmth Fund*. Go to www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/uttlesford-share-the-warmth before 6th December. If you need advice, our office hours are Monday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm.

Jo Hancock
Tel: 01799 618840
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk



www.southmillarts.co.uk

Saturday 3rd December-Monday 2nd January *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Join Jack as he makes his way up the beanstalk on his high-flying, magical journey and see what ginormous adventures await him. (See website for times)

Wednesday 7th December 10.00am, Free *Storytime - Rhino has an itch*. Rhino has an itch – who can help him? Join us for Storytime at the Museum. No need to book tickets.

Thursday 8th December 7.15pm *ROH: The Nutcracker*, Join Clara at a delightful Christmas Eve party which becomes a magical adventure once everyone else is tucked up in bed. Running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes (including one interval).



Saturday 10th-Saturday 24th December £14 *Santa's Grotto*. One ticket allows entry for one child and one adult to Santa's Grotto. To add additional children, you will need to book another ticket for the event. Please note: only one adult per child.

Tuesday 20th December 7.30pm *Retunesday* £15. The incredible Bishop's Stortford-based organisation Retune inspires young people to improve their mental health through creative outlets such as music. The team are joining us for regular music nights at South Mill Arts.

Thursday 5th January 7.30pm, £21.50, Concessions: £19.50. The Adult Panto - *Cinderella and her Naughty Buttons* Not suitable for under 16s.

Thursday 19th January 7.00pm ROH: *Like Water for Chocolate*. A modern Mexican classic of magic realism provides the basis for The Royal Ballet's new full-length work.

There are further details of all these events on our website.

Hazel Hawkins
Email: info@southmillarts.co.uk



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fingertips

care UK 

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If you're considering care, call **01279 886268**
or email jade.rackham@careuk.com

Trusted to care. 

Mountfitchet House care home, Coltsfield
careuk.com/mountfitchet-house



HELPLINE

Stansted's Voluntary Community Care Service

Need assistance with transport to medical appointments, shopping or collecting prescriptions etc?
No other transport available?

Call 07704 553727 Monday to Friday 9 am - 4 pm

*Helpline serves to harness the goodwill that exists in Stansted
If you would like to help as a Volunteer please give us a call*



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CHARITY CRICKET MATCH

The annual pub charity cricket match took place earlier in the year at Hargrave Park, home of Stansted Cricket Club. Four village pubs set out to establish who would be crowned Cricket Champions 2022. The teams were made up of regulars from the King's Arms, Dog and Duck, Rose and Crown, and The Cock. Two barrels of beer were generously donated by the landlords with proceeds going to charities along with proceeds from a raffle organised by Popcorn Web Design.



In the final match, the Rose and Crown were victorious and declared champions for the second year running, beating the Dog and Duck by 20 runs. The real winners were the charities: TouchPoint, Huw Johnson Club and Bishop's Stortford Night Shelter, who shared the £1,012 raised. A huge thank you to the Club for allowing this wonderful event to take place, and their members' efforts on the day. Many thanks also to the players and for the generosity of the supporters which made the day such a huge success.

Phil Eddershaw
Tel: 07811 197231
Email: peddershaw@gmail.com



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our October meeting was Jan Rickwood, one of our multi-talented members, an independent celebrant as well as a creator of bespoke flower arrangements and gifts. She is also a complementary practitioner, which was the topic of her talk. She gave us a brief history of aromatherapy explaining that no less than 33 essential oils are mentioned in the Bible. The practical part of the demonstration followed; we were guided through a hand massaging session with the help of a reflexology flow chart and some very soothing cream scented with either lavender or mandarin essential oils. Lovely! We all left for home in a very calm and relaxed frame of mind, taking our complimentary pot of hand cream with us.

Our December meeting is restricted to members only, but the January meeting on **Wednesday 18th January** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall is open to all. Ken McDonald will be giving a talk on *The Hundred Parishes*. Why not come along and meet him? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

We are open **every Wednesday** 10.00am-noon **throughout December and January** for adults to enjoy free coffee, cakes and biscuits 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 and save on your home's energy bills! If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



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



494 (STANSTED AIRPORT) SQUADRON Air Training Corps

We were very active over the summer. Stansted cadets went to the RAF Cosford Airshow with cadets from Saffron Walden, and later went to a week's camp at RAF Brize Norton, the main air transport hub for the Royal Air Force, where they were able to experience many aspects of the RAF. The National Air Track Service provided the cadets with a fascinating insight into the Control Tower at Stansted; a visit to the Police Air Support Unit, was very interesting, but cut short when the helicopter had to fly off for a suspects' call in north Essex. Seven Cadets have achieved their Blue Wings, with gliding at the former RAF stations of Little Rissington and Kenley. Cadets and staff flew from RAF Wittering in May. A new Commanding Officer, Flying Officer Lauren Reeks, has recently taken command.



If any young people between the ages of 12 (Year 8) and 18 are interested in joining and wish to see all the many activities we offer, do come along to the Squadron Headquarters in the Stansted Airport Business Park CM24 1RY any Monday or Thursday 7.30pm-9.30pm. Please contact me if you require further information for potential cadets or for adults, either as Civilian Instructors or members of the Association. You can also find us on www.facebook.com/494SquadronRAFAC.

Sqn Leader (Rt'd) Michael Dodd RAFVR(T)
Email: chair.494@refac.mod.gov.uk

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TIPPER TRUCK DISASTER

Many Stansted residents are undoubtedly fed up with the constant disturbance experienced each weekday, from 6.00am throughout the day until 4.30pm, caused by tipper trucks collecting unwanted soil from various development sites around Bishop's Stortford. This material is then deposited at various sites around Elsenham at a rate of approximately 250 loads daily. They collect in Bishop's Stortford, take a route around the back of the airport to Hall Road and Elsenham, unload, then return via Elsenham along the B1383 into Stansted, down Grove Hill, Chapel Hill and Silver Street back to Bishops Stortford. These roads are totally unfit for such traffic in terms of width, speed, danger to pedestrians, congestion, noise, air pollution, damage to road structure and surfaces. Schools in Elsenham and Stansted line these HGVs' routes, which is a particular concern.



This truck clearly weighs a great deal more than 7.5t

After years of campaigning to rid the village of HGVs, it seems that neither our village parish councillors nor the local County Councillor have the authority to implement solutions to these issues. Lee Scott (County cabinet member responsible for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport) attended a meeting in December 2021 confirming an approved funded scheme on all village roads where 7.5t weight restrictions would be applied. Cameras would record vehicles which break the weight restrictions and there would be penalties. A consultation period should



have started, but nothing of note has been reported since, despite residents regularly requesting detailed updates and communication. This was confirmed in a follow-up meeting in February 2022 with Kemi Badenoch in attendance endorsing the approved scheme.

In the meantime, a Grove Hill/Elsenham Road Group of residents who have been campaigning for action have decided to up the ante and take the matter to the Chief Executive of Essex County Council, Gavin Jones email: gavin.jones@essex.gov.uk. We are looking to add more substance to our cause by involving many more residents from Stansted, Elsenham and other affected areas. We therefore invite you to send your email contact details to the address below.

The Grove Hill Residents' Group
Email: amcdonnell1970@sky.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Textiles in East Anglia

Our speaker, John Miners, has an amazing ability to bring his subject to life. He grew up near the Courtauld factory in Bocking; and later worked there as a textile apprentice. The East Anglian cloth industry started in medieval times, making many small towns rich. During the industrial revolution these old industries died out, leading to extensive unemployment and the growth of factories producing much more cloth very cheaply. Persecuted Huguenots, including silk weavers such as George Courtauld (1761-1823) migrated to England, although George soon moved to America to make his fortune. On his return, he set up a cloth mill at Pebmarsh; his son Samuel built mills in Halstead and Bocking. By the 19th century Courtaulds had developed into a major cloth manufacturer specialising in black mourning cloth with embossed patterns. It became a huge business; much of their wealth was returned to the country by donating works of art to The Courtauld Gallery for the nation. Courtaulds closed in the late 1960s.

On **Thursday 1st December** we are having a quiz evening. The meeting on **Thursday 5th January** is for members only. Both meetings are in the Day Centre at 8.00pm



Can you help?

There is a possibility of storing our books and documents in a Parish Council building; we are seeking a practising or retired surveyor, or other suitably qualified person who would give us a free report on the suitability of the building. Please email tobylyons@aol.com if you can help. Thank you.

Edward Taub
Email: taubjr@icloud.com

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Author Helen Moss visited the school recently. UKS2 children had read her gripping Egyptian adventure *The Phoenix Code*, which cleverly entwines an ancient mystery and a modern-day adventure. We held workshops showing how to plan and write a book, helped by seeing Helen's notes and plans, the photos from her research trip and the books she read to ensure she was fully immersed in the ancient Egyptian world. Each class took on a different role, the aim being to create the outline of a historical adventure, based on their ideas. The children were then set a writing competition to turn their plan into an adventure story. Three stories were chosen from each class which were sent to Helen for feedback. She was very impressed with the children's ideas, imagination and enthusiasm.

Some of our Year 5s recently spent the night at the Science Museum in London. Astronights is a fun evening full of workshops, shows and activities followed by sleeping on the museum floor among the exhibits. In the morning, the children enjoyed a show: *Science Fiction: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination*. Our children were amazing and their exemplary behaviour was noted by the museum staff. Congratulations to the four winners of our Spooky bake-off: Ava Verschoye, Monty Chester-Pledger, Jacob Handford and Noah Cordell. It was a tough job judging but I powered through. December is always busy in school and hopefully this year things will be back to normal.

School Christmas events

- 6th Christmas dinner and jumper day and Santa dash
- 12th and 13th KS1 nativity
- 14th EYFS Nativity
- 14th Doorstep carols



We wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

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A reminder of our concert at Saffron Hall on **Sunday 4th December** at 3.00pm. The programme includes Vaughan Williams' pastoral picture *In the Fen Country*, Korngold's lyrical Violin *Concerto* with soloist Alex Redington, and Shostakovich's revolutionary *Symphony No 12*. Tickets: adults £17 and £20, 18-25 year olds £10, under 18s £5, available from www.saffronhall.com or tel 0845 548 7650. See you there!



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

STANSTED PHARMACY UPDATE

Last month I quoted Cllr John Spence's letter indicating that the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) does not support the granting of an NHS dispensing license to a second pharmacy in Stansted. However, Essex County Council (ECC) Health and Wellbeing (H&W) can *recommend* to NHS England-East the granting of such licenses.

Close examination of 2022 PNA shows that nowhere does it mention Stansted's particular characteristics, such as the steep Chapel Hill or that the Boots pharmacy on Cambridge Road has steps making it nearly impossible for disabled people to enter. There are even more steps at the rear side. I made an oral statement to Uttlesford District (UDC) Full Council meeting on 11th October and put a few questions to all District Councillors and officers, which they answered. One was of particular interest so I put a Freedom of Information request to ECC reference: ECC13607619 10 22. I am informed that ECC officer(s) including the Director of Public Health (DOPH) visited Boots and reported, "*that there is access to the pharmacy from the side, which enables people with access issues to enter the pharmacy.*" This is an important issue for the disabled members of our community. There is no recognition that Boots has two steps to enter it, so the disabled members of our community are discriminated against. I asked if there was an officer in Uttlesford District Council who could advise me concerning this issue.

Response from UDC: Telephone conversations have been held with the pharmacy lead at ECC and they informed the council that they had previously visited Boots pharmacy with the Director of Public Health. They said that there is access to the pharmacy from the side, which enables people with access issues to enter the pharmacy. I asked if they would provide me with the written report which the DOPH or the accompanying officers must have written following the visit to Boots confirming suitable access from the side enabling disabled members of our community to access the pharmacy? I can confirm that ECC does not hold this information because there was no written report following the visit and we have no history of this statement on record. This can only mean that Stansted Mountfitchet and surrounding communities do not have an NHS licensed community pharmacy that is disabled persons friendly. If the readers of The Link or others are disabled, please contact me; I would like to know your views.

Ray Woodcock
Tel: 816468

Email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com



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

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

Preachers for December

4th 10.30am Elizabeth Stockdale
11th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
18th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion
25th 10.30am Christmas Day Carols

Preachers for January

1st No service
8th 10.30am Mark Hayes
15th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Covenant Service
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
29th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe

Foodbank

Our collection box for the foodbank is being well used. Donations can be brought when we are open on Wednesdays 10.00am-noon or Sundays 10.30am-12.30pm. Please do not leave items outside the church.

The Place on the Hill for adults only and *Fun Place on the Hill* for all ages are open every Wednesday and Friday respectively, including the school holidays; see separate articles for further details. Why not come along and save on your heating bill?

Hall Bookings

We have some availability for new regular bookings, both daytime and evening. Please contact Marion as above for more information.



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draw:

£100	No 18	Gina Thomas
£ 50	No 235	Peter Wells
£ 25	No 150	Derek Poole-Adams

The draw for December will be held on **1st January**; the one for January will be held on **29th January**; both draws will take place in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each month are still available for anyone who may wish to join the club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. The club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062

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Email:
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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

From St John's Registers October

Baptism

16th Arthur Darren Cliff Nye

Funeral

26th Alan Wright, age 96 - service at St Mary's followed by burial in Stansted Cemetery

STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 6th December** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing *The Talented Mr Ripley* by Patricia Highsmith. We will also be having our Christmas Secret Santa book swap at this meeting where we will each wrap up a book that we have enjoyed reading; these will be exchanged and then we will read our new book in December ready to discuss at our January meeting which will be on **Tuesday 3rd January** at 8.00pm. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us at either of these meetings; you will be made very welcome.



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



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Friday	9.30am Mass	

Our Mass times can be subject to change so please refer to our website/Newsletter for updated information. Confessions are at 5.00pm every Saturday before the Vigil Mass and by appointment.

Baptism by appointment

Parish Priest Fr Liam Hayes
Tel: 814349
Email: frliamhayes@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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

Parish Administrator Clair Rava
Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

Contact Jonathan Morrell Tel: 07775 860379
Email: woldsouth3@gmail.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 This is a guided Quaker meditation. There is more information on the noticeboard outside the Meeting House or do contact Sue on 07759 532115. We generally meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Before the middle of the 20th century most people did not have watches; they relied on public clocks which could be seen at railway stations, post offices and on church towers, as well as on other public buildings. This reminds me of the lines written in 1912 by the homesick poet, Rupert Brooke:

*"Stands the church clock at ten to three
And is there honey still for tea?"*

The Hundred Parishes has a variety of interesting church clocks. In Furneux Pelham, St Mary's clock is topped by Old Father Time and the words "Time Flies, Mind Your Business". It would be interesting to know what prompted those words to be included.



The bell tower at Sheering has two clock faces which were installed in the 1940s to remember those who served in the War. The north-facing one tells us to "Work and Pray" whilst the west-facing proclaims "Today Is Yours".



The church at High Wych was built in 1861 to the design of local architect George Edward Pritchett. Its clock is almost as wide as the thin flintstone tower on which it is mounted. Hinxton may have our oldest church clock, believed to date from 1700, albeit extensively renovated in 1809 when a new face was fitted. Artist Eric Ravilious lived in Great Bardfield and his wood engraving of the church of St Mary the Virgin clearly shows the enormous clock that was added to commemorate the coronation of King George V in 1912. Presumably the residents of Great Bardfield are never late for work or church. The engraving has been adopted as the logo of The Hundred Parishes. The Society's trustees join me in wishing you a Merry Christmas.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
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STANSTED FIRE SERVICE

www.essex-fire.gov.uk/locations/Station_83_Stansted

Welcome to the first article from your local Fire Station crew. All the team live or work inside the village as they have to be within five minutes of the station while on duty. All on-call firefighters receive excellent initial basic training from Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and have to attend weekly training nights where they continue to improve their skills. This year has been incredibly busy for firefighters across the country and they all worked extremely hard throughout the summer. Our crew have a special vehicle designed for off-road firefighting, which was used a record 52 times in an incredibly short period of time.



We are now busy supporting the community again through various roles, as the nights draw in and the weather has cooled down after the extreme summer heat. Did you know we are supporting the community by carrying out home fire safety visits? Knowing how to reduce the risk of fire in your home is an important part of living safely. We offer free home visits to any Essex resident. If you do not have working smoke alarms or would like more information about how to live securely at home, book one of our free visits via our website; search for Home Safety Visit.

Out of respect for the sad passing of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we cancelled our open day on Saturday 10th September. However, we will be holding our first ever *Christmas Open Evening* in early December; see p 2 for details.

Steve Perry

Tel: 01376 575830

Email: stansted.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk



www.thetouchpoint.org

We would like to thank everyone who has supported TouchPoint over the past year; yes we are only just over a year old! So much has happened in that time and we have listened to you all to see what we might be able to provide. As you may have seen in the Parish Council section, we have launched several initiatives in response to the Cost of Living Crisis including Friday Breakfast Club and Tuesday Tea Time, which are both very popular, and more recently Sunday Afternoon at the Movies with tea, coffee and cake. Everything is free of charge; please see page 21 for details

Community Café opens on Thursdays 11.00am-5.00pm where the first tea or coffee is free and delicious home-made cakes and a light lunch are available. There is always help and support from our partner organisations including employment and housing advice, so do come and see us. Our Bereavement Café, in partnership with St Clare Hospice, is on the first and third Wednesdays of the month 10.00am-11.30am. Everyone is welcome, however recent their loss. Foodshare goes from strength to strength, reaching more than 1,000 people a week and we have recently launched one in Elsenham. We have given away the equivalent of 100,000 meals since we started, and in the last three months, we shared 14.6 tonnes of fresh produce. Please keep your eye on our Facebook page, website and village noticeboards for regular updates, or come along and have a chat - we would love to see you. You are also welcome to call us on 07572 114882.

Shirley Johnson



www.stanstedbusinessforum.com

We had a really good meeting at the Linden on 4th November with people attending from a variety of businesses. Masuma Ali, from Support4Sight (email: masuma@support4sight.org.uk) gave a really good overview of services available to people with sight loss and how 67% of women may experience sight loss in their lifetime. They also provide staff training on visual awareness and how to guide someone with sight loss. Sue Rudd from Absolute Travel gave an update on the travel industry, including Spain where travel restrictions have been lowered. She can provide information on passports, and reminded us that we need to have more than six months left on our passport before travelling abroad. DRB-DPO Data Protection Specialists have a new General Data Protection Regulation Academy. Director Rhian Burke reminded our members of the importance of data protection training in business.



Our Christmas lunch is on **Friday 9th December** at 12.30pm in the Linden. Our next breakfast meeting is on **Friday 3rd February**; email: hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com to book your place.



Iris Evans



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VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

The Village Harvest Supper, organised by Churches Together in Stansted was held on Sunday 16th October in St Theresa's Parish Centre. There were a goodly number of folk from all the churches in the village, plus their friends. The evening began with a meal of fried fish, chicken, sausage or a veggie burger with chips. The food was delivered hot and promptly. For dessert, ice creams were supplied free of charge from the Co-op. Next followed the entertainment, with several of the churches and the u3a Strummers providing musical items and drama. First, two young people from St Theresa's played beautifully on the piano, followed by the Strummers playing tunes to which we could sing along if we wished. Then St John's Church choir took to the stage, with Sheila playing her saxophone accompanied by Anne our organist. John Elliott sang the bass solo at the start of the anthem *Thou visitest the earth* with the whole choir joining him. The singing was beautiful! They finished with an amusing one: *Fling it 'ere, fling it there*, dressed up as country yokels, as shown in the photograph below.



There followed a short comedy sketch performed by two hard-working ladies (aka Liz and Kathy). It was their tea-break and one wanted a time of peace and quiet; unfortunately it did not seem to work out for her! The mystery act was revealed as Kathy and Rev'd Colin who sang *This little light of mine*. I admired Colin for doing this in front of lots of people. Thanks to Helen Baker for organising everything efficiently and to Dave Morson for compering so well. It was a brilliant evening, St Theresa's, and I am really looking forward to the next one!

Stella Skingle



SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

Let us hope that this Christmas is a very different one from the previous couple! We have some good news regarding the current cost of living issues. TouchPoint asked if we could offer a space to run one of their Foodshares (p 17). They want to reach as many of the community as possible, so were looking for a venue in a different part of the village. We are very pleased to help, and now run a Foodshare session at the Club on **Wednesdays** 2.15pm-3.15pm. Items are fresh supermarket surplus that would otherwise go to land-

fill. Foodshare is *free* and for *everyone*, not just those on low incomes. Please help reduce food waste.

There is some great entertainment coming up, mostly on Saturdays. We start on **3rd December** with a *Robbie Williams* tribute, followed by *The Time Warps* on the **10th** who bring a fantastic set of pop and rock covers. The **17th** sees a *Status Quo* tribute making their Social Club debut. We finish 2022 on **31st** with our resident DJ John and a New Year's Eve disco. The *Repertoire Dogs* kick-off 2023 on **7th January**, followed by a *Paloma Faith* tribute and party set on **14th**. The **21st** sees another debut band, *Kiss the Teacher*, an *ABBA* tribute. **Friday 27th** sees *Firebrand*, bringing classic rock covers. On **28th** the *Dua Lipa* tribute will return and we round off January on **Sunday 29th** with *Louise Doyle* who will be singing opera numbers and a whole lot more! Have a peaceful Christmas, and an exciting New Year.



Andrew Sharpe

Tel: 812992

Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com



RSPB

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

I have been contributing to the Link for over a year and in that time we have flourished as a group and our activities have been well supported. Our website gives full details of our activities, so if you are thinking of joining us it is the place to look. Events are open to all people of all ages and levels of knowledge and you do not have to be an RSPB member or a member of our group to take part. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 13th December** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre with Derek Niemann, author of *Birds in a Cage*. This is the true and inspiring story of four young men who were prisoners in World War II. In their many years of captivity and under very difficult circumstances they studied birds, and after the war went on to become major and famous figures in conservation.



Our social walk is on **Tuesday 20th December** at 10.00am, starting from the Rosy Lea Café, Wickham Hall. This is a circular walk through fields and woodland followed by refreshments at the café. Our first meeting of the new year (venue and time as for December) is on **Tuesday 10th January** when John Buckingham presents *The Wonders of Bird Migration*. Wishing you and your family a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

...with news of parking schemes and road consultations, our tree planting project, dates and times of free festive parking, as well as an update on the village Christmas Light display, and help to cope with the Cost of Living Crisis



TRAFFIC, PARKING ROUND-UP

It has been a busy year for our highways sub-committee as it has sought solutions to the all-too-many traffic and parking problems afflicting the village's street and roads. Here, as another year comes to an end, we provide a round-up of the various consultations and proposed solutions being looked at by the sub-committee currently.

Grove Hill & HGVs

Essex Highways' strategy to reduce HGV traffic in our village depends on identifying alternative routes for HGV use that wouldn't impact nearby villages. One alternative – Hall Road – has recently suffered three serious accidents and subsequent safety investigations need to be completed before it can be considered viable.

... & Traffic Lights

Essex Highways have looked into introducing an additional set of lights up Grove Hill to deter drivers jumping the existing set of lights at the foot of the Hill. But they have concluded this would only add to road safety problems in the area. An existing safety concern is the presence of traffic cones running along the kerbs of Grove Hill. EH say these are illegally sited and need to be removed, warning that putting cones out in this manner is prosecutable.

Soil Dumping

Locations such as Gypsy Lane & May Walk are being used to dump soil waste. Essex County Council has proposed a multi-agency summit involving the Highways Agency, the Environment Agency and the district council to tackle the problem. Swoops on nearby construction sites to read the tachometers of HGVs have been mooted as a way to address the problem.

Foresthall Park Consultation

The working group of councillors and residents set up to explore options to tackle parking issues at Foresthall Park has conducted several fact-finding walkabouts of the development. Once it has settled on its proposals for different areas of Foresthall, it will launch a consultation with residents before settling on the preferred options.

Double Yellow/Red Lines

An application is to be made to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) for appropriate restrictions to be introduced along Bentfield Road from its junction with Bentfield Gardens to Bentfield Causeway. Residents say the recent growth of non-residential parking has impacted on sight lines and road safety. A consultation will be needed, with the NEPP having the final say to sign off on the lines.

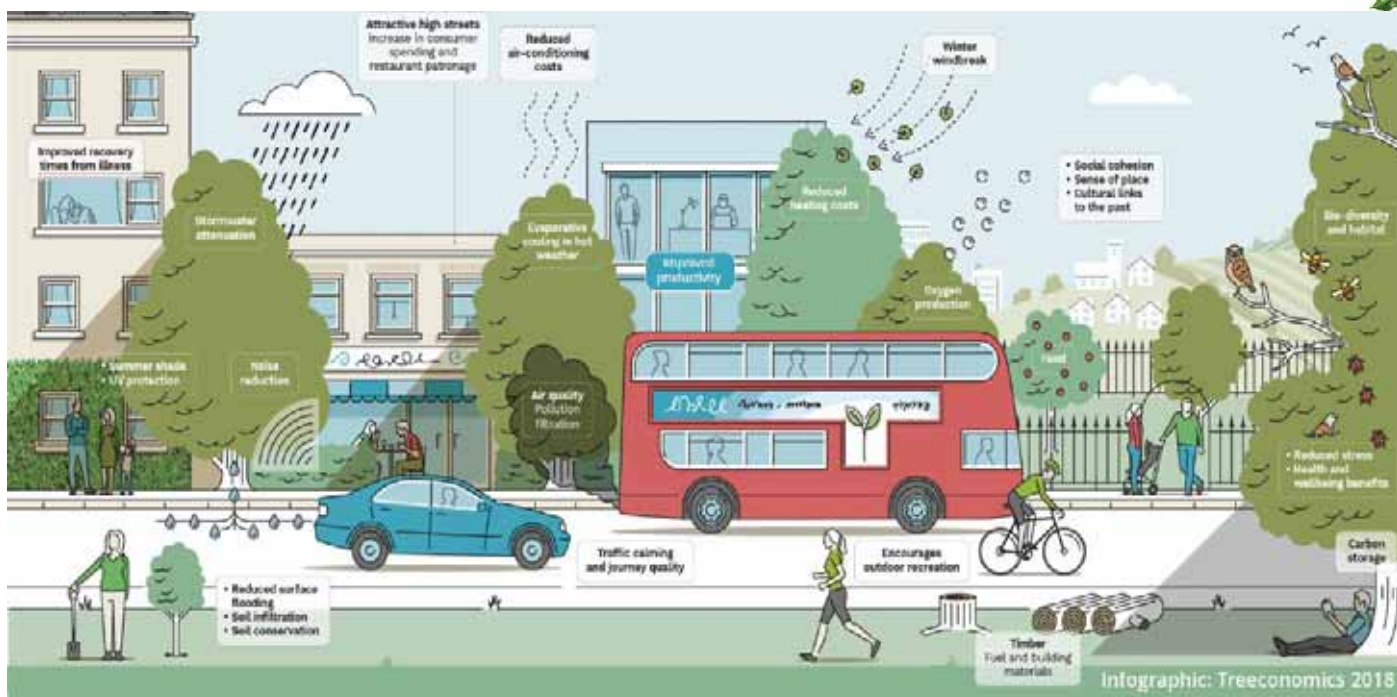
20 is Plenty

In October a resolution was passed to apply to Uttlesford Local Highway Panel to fund a feasibility study into a 20mph limit for Lower Street, Chapel Hill, and Church Road. The Parish Council has already submitted a proposal for traffic calming and crossing points to be introduced along High Lane.

Footpath Improvements

A proposal has been made to the Uttlesford Local Highway Panel to widen and improve the surface of a section of the footpath on Cambridge Road (towards High Lane). An application has also been made for S.106 money (held by Essex Highways for highway work tied to Foresthall Park) to improve the footpath along Church Road. Updates on previously submitted proposals for a crossing on Silver Street, town twinning signs and work to High Lane's footpath are being sought.





TREE PLANTING CONSULTATION

This autumn the Parish Council has been engaging with residents over the siting of trees in eight locations as part of a county-wide effort to combat climate change and fight habitat loss. The Essex Forest Initiative (EFI) have secured £10k in funding for the Parish Council to cover planting costs as well as for tree care for the first three years. Woodland officers surveyed each location before proposing them as sites:

- The Rec / Windmill fields (12 trees)
- Upper & Lower Bentfield Green (18 trees)
- Mountfitchet Green (10 trees)
- Urban Square (11 trees)
- Walson Way Green (10 trees)
- Wilkin's Crescent (10 trees)

In October, residents who potentially may be the most affected by the siting of new trees in each location were invited to give their opinions via consultation letters.

FREE HOT MEALS & MOVIE CLASSICS

Free hot meals, warm drinks, and classic movies are now being served up by TouchPoint at the Day Centre to see you through the winter. Their Breakfast Club is offering bowls of porridge, cereals, bacon sarnies, and tea & coffee from 8.30-10am on Fridays. Also at 72 Chapel Hill from 3.30-5.30pm on Tuesdays, free hot meals and fun activities are being put on for school-age kids, their families and carers. Look out too for Santa and his elf - both will be popping in for Teatime Tuesday on December 13.

And if your household needs some free heart-warming entertainment on a weekend, why not pull up some seats at TouchPoint's Sunday at the Movies, when a classic movie will be shown and free cake and refreshments will be served at the Day Centre, 1-4pm. For more info, visit www.touchpoint.org



The wider community were asked for their thoughts on the initiative via our Facebook page and website. Consultation continued in November when a second phase of engagement was started with villagers after tree layouts were revised in light of concerns about the original siting of the new trees.

Feedback from the consultations has been used to nail down, and in cases adjust the trees' siting at each spot. In one area residents concerns prompted one site to be cut from the project. This was at Lower Bentfield Green. The open views afforded of the surrounding countryside at this site have been cited in several planning appeals against development in the area. Keeping the Lower Green in the project could have unintended planning consequences.

Planting at the other seven sites will start in January. Adding trees around Stansted goes beyond merely trying to beautify village views. The primary goal is to boost biodiversity while also doing something about climate change at a local level. But as the above infographic details, trees deliver many other upsides. A single tree, for example, can bring £8,000 worth of community gains, from limiting flood damage, cutting energy costs on buildings, and increasing property prices - houses on tree-lined streets are worth up to 18% more than those on streets without tree cover, according to the organisation Treeconomics.

FESTIVE PARKING

The run up to Christmas and New Year is a key trading period for high streets. This is particularly true in 2022 with many predicting a bumpy ride for the economy. The District Council hopes to encourage Uttlesford residents to support local high streets by setting aside free parking days in its car parks over the festive season. The free days began in November and continue into December at the Lower Street and Crafton Green car parks, where it will be free to park from **Monday, December 26 to Monday, January 2**. Stickers indicating free parking times will be displayed on the ticket machines in each of the car parks. The machines will be covered for this free all-day period. UDC have also requested that the MiPermit app will be set to free, too.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Prudent budget adjustments in the face of rising inflation and the cost of living crisis has seen the Finance & General Purposes committee revisit its scope for funding projects in 2022. One area that has required reconsideration was delivering an enhanced Christmas light display along Lower Street.

Increasing the lights on Lower Street was already proving complicated even before economic storm clouds gathered. One barrier has proved the make up of the street itself. The road's mix of private residential and food and drink businesses is unlike that of a typical high street. Many business premises are leased, and property owners are known to discourage external Christmas lights being fixed to their buildings.

The Parish Council hopes to work with businesses to improve Stansted's lights next Christmas, like it has with the Social Club on Lower Street, which will feature a new Icicle drop LED lighting display. This year there will also be extra LED lights at the fountain at the top of Chapel Hill.

Residents are reminded that there will once again be community Christmas trees outside Castle Maltings and the Dog and Duck pub. Funds left over from the 2021 community appeal have been added to money raised by Patsy Banks undertaking pub quiz nights to pay for this year's trees. We are sure you will join us in thanking Patsy for her efforts.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Alan Dean
District Councillor
reports



As winter approaches, we must be thankful that voluntary organisations such as TouchPoint are bringing help to many people in need of food, companionship and other support in Stansted and in some surrounding villages. See the box at the bottom of page 21 for how TouchPoint is supporting our community through the Cost of Living Crisis.

The Essex County Council, meanwhile, has published a document called Cost of Living Support for Households and Communities. Head to <https://bit.ly/3h3QmgS> on the internet where the document can be downloaded. It contains a 6-point plan about what ECC is doing, though it doesn't say much about how individuals should go about obtaining help, but may provide some signposting for voluntary groups to where that is available.

Airport Compensation

The bad news from Uttlesford is that agreement has finally been reached with Stansted Airport to pay the company £2,100,000 compensation for the Council's irregular behaviour in mishandling the planning appeal to expand the airport's annual passenger throughput. The planning inspectors decreed that Uttlesford District Council had "acted unreasonably" in the way it fought the appeal. A council that loses an appeal would normally not have to compensate the applicant with a cash payment, because each party is ex-

pected to pay its own costs, which include bills from expensive lawyers.

When UDC's planning committee's REFUSAL was taken by the airport to an appeal before national planning inspectors, the District Council's appeal team surprisingly decided to argue for the opposite - an APPROVAL plus some legal jargon. This was considered by the inspectors (as well as by many councillors) to have been unacceptable and unreasonable behaviour. So, the District Council - or rather, we taxpayers - was effectively fined £2,100,000. Add to that the Council's own external costs for lawyers, et al, of £1,368,890, PLUS unquantified costs within the District Council for staff time. All this adds up to a wasted total cost to UDC taxpayers of around £4,000,000.

UDC's annual Council Tax income for last year was £6,120,521.61. So the financial loss from this major maladministration comes to around two-thirds of one year's tax payment to UDC by all households across the Uttlesford. The good news is that the District Council's planning procedures are likely to be changed in future to increase the transparency of the system to both opposition councillors, like me, and to the public across Uttlesford - with the aim of ensuring this type of episode will never be repeated.

Local Plan Pushed Back to 2023

The second bad news is that the initial stage public consultation for Uttlesford's long-awaited Local Plan has been delayed from this autumn until the second half of 2023. This means that there will be several more years of planning uncertainty, resulting in yet more house building in unsuitable locations as developers and landowners exploit the absence of a Plan.

Developer Fails to Deliver Footpaths

Finally, on the day in early November that I wrote this report, I received a disappointing update about two footpaths to Cambridge Road and High Lane from King Charles' Drive that the housing developer had failed to deliver in line with a legal agreement. In September the Planning Committee agreed with me that the developer should not be allowed to get away with neglecting to deliver what they signed up to. Sadly, the developer has said they will submit an appeal against the committee's recent decision, so there will be further delay. I hope that District Council planning officers will support their Planning Committee Members on this occasion by fighting the appeal with robust evidence.

My fellow district councillors and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2023 bring more cheer than did 2022.

THANK YOU, MOLLY

We are sure you will join the Parish Council in thanking Molly Clark for her time and dedication in helping run the Stansted Windmill. Molly has recently stepped down from the role of co-trustee after serving as on the mill's board for over 11 years. We would also like to thank Mr Jeff Bowie, who has stepped forward to replace Molly.



STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

You can attend our meetings at the Mountfitchet Exchange in person or virtually with the Zoom details found on the agenda posted on our website. Meetings start at 7.30pm unless indicated below. Statements can be made during Public Participation at the start of Full Council meetings; permission must be requested to film or record proceedings.

December 7	Windmill (7pm), Finance & General Purposes Committee (8pm)
December 14	Full Council
January 11	Finance & General Purposes Committee
January 18	Full Council
January 25	Open Spaces

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LIBRARY

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

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The district council's bi-monthly garden waste skip service will resume in Spring 2023.

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

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After a wet and warm October, the Gardens have recovered a little from the dry summer, but it is very difficult to guess how any month is going to pan out. What we do know is that Christmas falls in December and our volunteers will get a welcome break from gardening; Gary, our volunteer who provides talks about the Gardens, will let his laptop cool down. We get back into action in January. The talks programme is filling up, but still has spaces. If your local group would like a talk, see the groups section on our website or email: groupvisits@eastonlodge.co.uk. Last December we had many new trees to plant, which had been donated to us. After such a difficult summer, this year our winter focus is more likely to be on care and maintenance: lots of mulching to look after the plants and new trees that have made it through the year.



We have our usual Snowdrop Sundays and Thursdays planned for February; more details nearer the time. If you are beginning to think about new year's resolutions, you might like to consider joining us as a volunteer gardener, baker or front of house person; or perhaps as a Trustee? We are always happy to add to our happy team. We wish you all the best for a happy festive season.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

Email: jillgoldsmith1@virginmedia.com



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

November Meeting

Our speaker, Dr Chris Gibson, had a long career with Natural England and was the Government's advisor on nature conservation. He began giving talks, walks and seminars on natural history and ecology when he retired. We saw slides showing how the climate is affecting both flora and fauna. Birds and plants from warmer climes are now commonplace here. An example is the collared dove, rare in the 60s but now a frequent visitor to our gardens. The warmer weather is causing problems for birds as breeding times are no longer

coinciding with a glut of insects, therefore many nests of young birds are dying of starvation. The flooding of salt marshes and extension of reservoirs was discussed. East Anglia, instead of being a stop-off destination in the bird migration south, is becoming the preferred winter home of northern birds. Humans have been responsible for the eradication of some species, but in recent years animals and birds have been reintroduced to the countryside to help bring a balance. "Every little thing you do helps" were our speaker's closing words.

The members' Bring and Share Christmas party is on **Wednesday 7th December 7.30pm for 8.00pm** in the Day Centre, and there is no January meeting. As this is the last Link of the year, the Club wishes all readers a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

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How eating can improve your balance, speed and strength

The better balanced we are, the faster and more powerful we are and the less prone to falling over. We have a left and a right set of balance organs as well as a left and a right brain. These also need to be balanced, but too often one side dominates the other. When one side of the brain is weaker than the other, when we pick up a foot to step or stride forwards, the foot will not pick up as cleanly as the other foot, leading to a potential stumble, or just lack of speed. How does this relate to chewing our Christmas dinner? The jaw is a big deal in the brain! Most people benefit hugely from stimulating one side of the chewing muscles.



It is very common for jaws to become imbalanced; perhaps an easy way to tell if chewing on one side will help is this. Test out your balance, any way you like; then lightly grip a pen between your right teeth, noticing the effect on your balance, then change to the left teeth. If this made no difference, grip the pen quite firmly between the right then the left teeth. Chew on the side that gave the best result. The amount of pressure will make a difference to the result. For an added bonus, which may help headaches, rub behind your ear on the same chewing side, rubbing where the ear meets the skull, about halfway up. This stimulates the vagus nerve, which is intertwined with the trigeminal (chewing) nerve.

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Members of Stansted and Thorley u3as spent a most enjoyable and interesting week in September, visiting the North East. They visited Holy Island, Bamburgh, Seahouses, Beamish Open Air Museum, Durham, Hexham and the Angel of the North statue. We thank Thorley u3a for inviting us and for the photo.





At October's General meeting Martin Lloyd, a former immigration official, traced the development of the passport from a hand-written note to today's bulkier format. He outlined a few passport stories, including a discussion of 19th century assassins who caused the rules to be changed forever, and a spy with a mysterious passport: William Joyce or Lord Haw Haw, the traitor who was hanged for the passport he never should have had.

Our Christmas Lunch is on **Thursday 15th December** at Bury Lodge. The speaker programme for next year, although still to be confirmed, is complete and available on the website. Peter Maggs will be our speaker on **Thursday 19th January** talking about *The Murder in the Red Barn*. He has comprehensively researched a long-ago murder in deepest rural Suffolk; he specialises in this kind of historical investigation and is the author of several books.

The Saturday seminars are returning to the Free Church Hall, starting on **25th February**. Timed to coincide with the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine, the topic is *Old Russia to European State - a History of Conflict between Ukraine and Russia*. We are delighted that David Morson is presenting this seminar, which starts at 9.30am. Tickets must be booked in advance, priced £7, available from 9th January from our website or at the meetings in January and February.

Anne White
Tel: 07874 385541


**A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
to all our Readers.**


Don't forget that the next issue will be February 2023

TWINNING ASSOCIATION CHEESE AND WINE



Please come to the Stansted-Rungis Twinning Association's Cheese and Wine Evening on **Friday 9th December** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre. Guess the cheese competition, mini quiz and live video link to our French friends in Rungis - with luck! Everyone welcome. Tickets £10 from 07833 089298 or email: twinning@stansted.net.

Geraldine Allars



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

To combat the cold and damp of January, we are bringing the fiery brilliance of young Welsh violinist Charlie Lovell-Jones and his piano partner Julian Chan to St John's Church on **Sunday 29th January** at 3.00pm. Although still in his early twenties, Charlie has been appointed leader of the highly successful *Sinfonia of London*, featuring in their recent recordings and televised Proms appearance in July. His studies began at Oxford University and continued via a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music. He is currently at Yale School of Music in the USA, from where he will be coming to play for us in Stansted.



We first heard Charlie playing with the Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia in 2018 and were so astounded by his brilliant virtuosity that we signed him up there and then for our next season, only to be thwarted by Covid lockdowns. We are especially pleased to be bringing him and Julian to St John's at last. Their programme includes pieces by Bach, Grieg, Saint Saëns, Paganini and Tchaikovsky, with no doubt a few extra showstoppers thrown in. The sparks will fly! This is a great opportunity to bring along some members of the next generation and expose them to some violin wizardry. Tickets: adults £15, students and concessions £12, under 18s free, available on the door or call 815282. Full details are on our website.



Richard Allaway
Tel: 814118

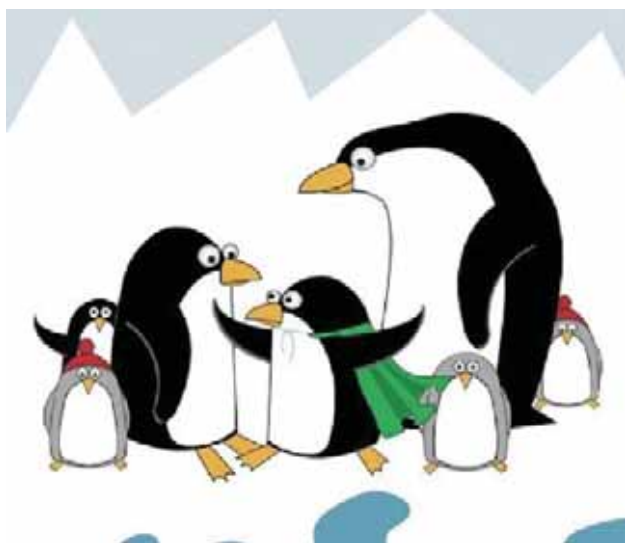
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MANUDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.manudenprimary.co.uk

We have had a busy and exciting term with wide-ranging Experience Outcomes. *Snowy Owl Class* have been busy preparing their nativity production, *The Innkeeper's Breakfast*, about a very busy innkeeper whose breakfast is more important to him than anything else. Nobody is allowed to interrupt him until he has eaten it all up! One morning, however, as he sits down to eat his enormous breakfast, there is knock after knock at the door and no end of interruptions which result in a very special birth. *Barn Owl Class* have been creating a seasonal production with an environmental message. *Eddie the Penguin* discovers that the world he lives in is changing and that the ice is melting. He takes his family to find a new home at the North Pole and discovers that humans are causing the thawing of the ice. Eddie goes on a mission to save the planet and let the world know how they can change things for the better.



Our November Open Day was very successful. If you missed it, but are still interested in a place for reception or another year group, please contact us.

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Marnie Tait
Tel: 813370

Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

This term ends with our carol service on **Thursday 8th December** at 7.30pm in St John's Church. Everyone is welcome; please join us. This will be our first carol service since 2019 so we are very much looking forward to getting together for a celebration of the festive season. Thank you to everyone who has supported Huw Johnson this year, enabling us to restart the Club and enjoy some great activities; we start again in late February. If anyone is interested in attending as a member or a volunteer, please do get in touch.

Ellen Brooks
Tel: 07800 896516
Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk

STANSTED LIBRARY

www.libraries.essex.gov.uk

As it starts to get colder, we are promoting our libraries across the county as Warm Welcomes. Libraries are great places to go to work, learn, socialise and keep warm. We launched libraries as warm spaces in November, and offer free tea and coffee. With this in mind, we are seeking a volunteer to run a Knit and Natter group in the library on Wednesday afternoons. If you happen to have some knitting and/or crochet knowledge, a welcoming disposition and would like to lead this group on a weekly, fortnightly or even monthly basis, please speak to a member of staff; we would love to sign you up. We will provide the tea and coffee making facilities. Our other regular activities include Baby and Toddler Rhymetime on Tuesdays 10.30am-11.00am, Storytime for Early Years children on Thursdays 3.30pm-4.00pm, and Storytime for children of all ages on the first Saturday of the month.

Our Winter Reading Challenge for children started at the end of November. Collect your bookmark and read six books over the winter to collect special rewards and a certificate at the end. Details can be found on the Essex libraries website from the library.



Susannah Freeman
Deputy Library Supervisor
Email: stansted.library@essex.gov.uk

STANSTED EVENING WI



In November we had a very successful trip to the Phoenix Theatre in London to see the musical *Come from Away*, which is based on events that happened after 9/11 in 2001. While the US and Canadian airspaces were closed, US bound planes were diverted to Gander International Airport in Newfoundland. The 10,000 inhabitants of Gander welcomed over 6,500 strangers into their midst for five days. This is the story of some of those people, the residents who struggled to feed and shelter them and those who were on one particular flight. The singing and energy of the dancing by all the cast was amazing. Most of us said we would happily see it again.

Our last speaker was Chris Truran, a retired Crime Scene Examiner, who gave a fascinating insight into the use of forensic science. He said that he has probably examined over 25,000 crime scenes, ranging from shop-lifting to murder. Edmund Locard from Lyon was the first forensic scientist; he formulated the principle that every contact leaves a trace, which revolutionised criminal detection. A partially eaten apple was once used to trace a killer; by examining the bite mark they could tell that the man was tall and gangly. I have not yet worked that one out. It is not necessary to have a degree to succeed in this line of work, more an enquiring mind and lots of patience. On **Thursday 8th December** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre we look forward to a musical treat from *3's Company*. Our first meeting of the new year is on **Thursday 12th January** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre. Visitors are always welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

Moving into the festive month and new year we have some exciting matches to play in both league and cup competitions. We are hoping that the successful run in the FA Vase and Essex Senior Cup has continued (our November matches had not been played at the time of writing) and that January will give us two prime home draws as a reward for progressing. Other great games to look out for are our League Cup away fixture against Enfield (who play at Bishop's Stortford FC) on **Tuesday 6th December** at 3.00pm, and an away fixture at Saffron Walden on **Tuesday 27th December** at 1.30pm. This match is our festive fixture for the season. Please remember that many clubs are moving Saturday kick off times to avoid using floodlights so check our social media sites for details.



We wish our supporters and neighbours best wishes for Christmas and New Year. We only have one home game in December due to the way our fixtures have been compiled:

3 rd	Dec	v Redbridge
14 th	Jan	v Ilford
21 st	Jan	v Halstead
28 th	Jan	v Sawbridgeworth



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



RECYCLING



Blister Strips

We have had a huge response to our request for blister strips; please keep them coming. Please put them in a bag and place in the box with the spectacles. We are still collecting stamps, original ink cartridges (**not toner cartridges**), toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag) as well as old spectacles and cases. Items can be left in the boxes outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. 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



www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

Do you shop at the Co-op?

We are very excited to have been selected to be part of Co-op's Local Community Fund for the next 12 months. Please help us raise funds to enable us to organise talks and workshops addressing key issues impacting mental health and wellbeing. Take a look at our profile page at www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/69702. If you nominate us, we receive 1p for every pound spent on selected Co-op branded products and services, as long as you remember to swipe your card. If you are a member, please nominate us as your cause via the Co-op App or your online membership account. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one; you will earn rewards and points, as well as being able to support our cause.



Volunteering and Community Meetings

Would you like to know more about what we do? Do you have ideas about how we can better support those in our community who might be struggling with mental health? Did you know that we have regular get-togethers at the Social Club to which everyone is invited? Please check our website or Facebook page for dates; we would love to see you there. The team wishes you a happy and relaxing Christmas and a mentally-healthy New Year!

Dina McDonald

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org



Stansted Tennis Club
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

We held our annual quiz evening on 28th October. About 60 members and friends enjoyed a fun evening at St John's Hall. Committee member Caroline Mott and Carol Cook, the quiz organiser, planned the evening and the raffle. The funds raised are to be used for the renovation of the Club-house being undertaken by Jamie and Gail Hogg.



At the time of writing locals may have noticed that the courts are not in use. This is because during late October and early November both courts were completely resurfaced. A Christmas get together in the refurbished Club-house will take place on the evening of Wednesday 14th December. All members are welcome. See our website for more news.

Debbie Lane
Publicity Office

Email: debbiegane@gmail.com



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Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
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