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Front cover:

Artwork from local
schools collated 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 June for the July issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th June to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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EDITORIAL



The Link team are proud to include such a talented photographer as Paul Burt, who organised the cover of this edition. He photographed every bit of artwork from the schoolchildren, then sorted them into a collage. In case you are wondering, the photographs of children's faces, complete with crowns, are from Rickling Church of England Primary School. For further information about other contributing schools, please see the article on the facing page.

How wonderful that we are out of lockdown in time to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with the rest of the nation. Please see p 20, the first page of Stansted Network, for details of the lavish picnic and entertainment which will be taking place on Saturday 4th June at the Recreation Ground. If any of you would like to take some pictures of this event, please do send them to us for the July issue. Be careful if you take photographs of children though, as permission from their parents or guardians must be obtained. Yvonne Ayres has written about the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the village 10 years ago, with some beautiful photos – see p 7.

There is a heartfelt plea on p 4 for volunteers to help to support Ukrainian refugees as they arrive at the airport. If any of our readers feel that they could help, please do have a look at the article, where there are all the relevant contact details. Have a wonderful four-day weekend of festivities in early June.



www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place on the Hill was successfully launched at the end of April, and we have enjoyed welcoming parents and children. In a relaxed atmosphere, adults chat over coffee and the children enjoy plenty of space to run around, playing with the toys and listening to Story Time around 10.30am.



All ages are welcome, although particularly suitable for children, on **Fridays 9:15am–11:30am** in the Free Church Hall which is warm and comfortable. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea or coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings. Please note that we are **not open on Friday 3rd June** as this is a Bank Holiday.

Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com



The start of May was a busy time for us with a well-received Chas and Dave tribute act followed by Beyond Madness, and a very successful plant sale. Our commitment to safeguarding our staff continues with training in manual handling to help reduce back problems. We have invested in new chairs for the main bar area which are very comfortable and provide a lot more back support. All staff will also receive first aid and fire safety training. Due to the number of members we now have, we will also be investing in a defibrillator. Whilst there is one in the phone box outside the Club, we feel that precious time could be lost obtaining the code and accessing the device. We donated £355 to the emergency appeal for Ukraine, so thank you to everybody who supported our meat raffles. Do come down for the chance to win your lunch! The raffle takes place on Sundays at 3.00pm.

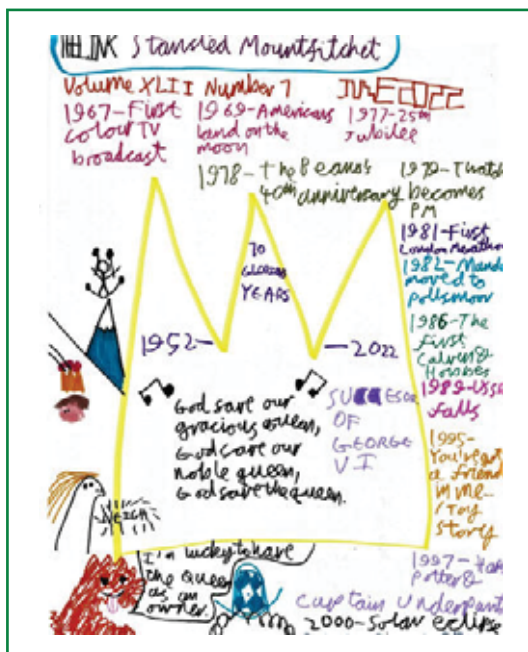
We have a Michael Jackson tribute act on **Saturday 4th June** followed by our Queen's Jubilee celebrations on **Sunday 5th June** when we welcome back the Chas and Dave tribute act, which is open to non-members; so if you want to find out more about the Club please come along. On **Friday 10th June** we have Karaoke which is open to all members regardless of your singing ability! The 11th sees a social club debut for RPM45, a 60s covers band. We welcome Parallel Covers on the 18th who cover songs through the ages, and round things off in June when we welcome back Tony Lewis, our resident Robbie Williams tribute. We send out regular mailshots so if you want to receive information about the Club, please email me and we will add you to the list.



Andrew Sharpe
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com

FRONT COVER LOCAL SCHOOLS' ARTWORK

I am sure that you are all enjoying looking at our amazing front cover this month. There are several people responsible for it; we at The Link are so pleased with the response which we got from local schools, and our thanks go to all the children who produced such great pictures to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We would also like to thank the teachers and school administrators who went to a lot of trouble to get the artwork done. The pictures are from Rickling, Magna Carta, Manuden and Bentfield Primary schools. The latter school held a competition for the best picture and sent the winning one to us. It is in the third row, fourth column; thanks to Alice in Year 3 for this charming picture.



One piece of artwork which is not on the front cover is shown above; it was not included as there are so many words, which would have been hard to read. The artist, Eric from Magna Carta, went to a lot of trouble to find out about historical events which took place during Her Majesty's reign, so I wanted to include it somewhere in this edition. Great stuff Eric! I learned a lot from your picture; thanks so very much.

Ed

STANSTED LIBRARY

www.libraries.essex.gov.uk

Summer Reading Challenge

Gadgeteers will be arriving in the library this summer. Children across Essex are being challenged to help the Gadgeteers by reading six books and earning cool stickers. Along the way they will discover amazing science and innovation in the world around us. If they complete the challenge, they receive a certificate and a medal. Find out more about how to take part in this free activity on our website. The challenge will take place between Saturday 16th July and Saturday 3rd September.



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



A lot has happened over the past few weeks. Some of our volunteers have created a wonderful garden. Thank you to Keiran at Human Roots for helping to access raw materials. The garden is for everyone; come along and share it with us. The café is open Thursdays 11.00am-5.00pm and Fridays 10.00am-2.00pm. We have homemade cakes and light lunches, and your first tea or coffee is always free of charge.

Running

If you want to become more active, we offer beginner running groups on Monday evenings and Friday mornings as well as a beginner bootcamp at Crafton Green on Friday mornings. Led by Lucy and Lizi these sessions are offered free of charge. To find out more, drop in to TouchPoint.

The Bereavement Café

Running in partnership with St Clare Hospice, the café is open on Wednesdays 1st and 15th June 10.00am-11.30am. This group is for everyone, whenever your loss occurred.

Community Foodshare

This is a new project to tackle food waste and stop good quality fresh produce going to landfill. We are working with local supermarkets to collect their surplus produce; our thanks to Waitrose, Tesco and Sainsburys for their enthusiastic support.

The stalls are open at Touchpoint every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11.00am-1.00pm and everyone is welcome to come and take some free produce. If you have a neighbour who is less mobile, why not collect items for them also? Please see updates on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/touchpointstansted.



We are building up a base of amazing volunteers, but we still need more. Please email volunteer@thetouchpoint.org and learn about the opportunities we have. For further information about Touchpoint please contact us.

Shirley Johnson
Tel: 07572 114882
Email: info@thetouchpoint.org

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Peter Regelous, the speaker at our April meeting, held his audience in the palm of his hand. His life appears to have been full of variety and interest, achieved without the formalities of planning or training, a serendipity of opportunity and the willingness to have a go. Somewhere along the line he must have worked hard because a career in musical and light entertainment was reached via shaping butter pats for Sainsburys, the Essex police and law courts. Peter did what he enjoyed, from solo spots in London pubs to working on many TV series that make up the hinterland of our entertainment memories. He has many a tale to tell about the programmes he worked on and the people he met along the way and he tells them kindly and with great humour.

On **Wednesday 15th June** we have a trip arranged to the Se-vill Gardens with a river boat ride, lunch and tea. For our meeting the following day, the speaker will be Tim Moorey who has been a professional cryptic crossword setter for many years. He is an authority on spelling, meaning and usage, and his talk *Fun with English* promises to take us through aspects of our ever-growing language in a light-hearted interactive way. Restrictions on parking in St John's Road will be lifted for the period of the meeting (1.30pm-4.00pm). Please do come along, meet old friends and make some new ones.

Eileen Quinn
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Ugley Village Hall took on the aspect of a mini art gallery for our April meeting. Members and one very welcome visitor arrived to find the stage full of reproductions of Renoir's paintings used to illustrate a brief introduction to his life and work, including some interesting anecdotes about the models and sitters.

The meeting not only celebrated Renoir's great talent, we also celebrated our President Dorothy Wallace's birthday with delicious cupcakes made by our secretary Betty Francis. We also paid tribute to the massive contribution to Ugley WI made by Edna Wright who has been a member of our institute for many decades and held numerous positions on the committee, including that of president. Her determination and devotion to our WI saved it from closure in the 1990s by promoting it and rallying visitors and members of other local groups to join us, so it is largely thanks to her that we can meet as an institute today. Edna and her husband Alan are leaving the area to live near their daughter and son-in-law. She leaves with our love and thanks and very best wishes for every happiness in her new life. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 15th June** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall and will include a cream tea to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES – CAN YOU HELP?

Volunteers are urgently needed to help Ukrainian refugees arriving at Stansted Airport; to support their onward journey or connection to relatives/host family and other needs that may be identified. This is being co-ordinated by the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford (CVSU) with Volunteer Uttlesford. There are up to 200 refugees arriving at the airport every day and there is a Welcome Point in the Arrivals Hall for all Ukrainian arrivals and host families to visit. Ukrainian people with more complex needs are taken to the Reception Centre in Enterprise House. Volunteers will be led and supported by an onsite Volunteer Co-ordinator with full induction and training provided online and are asked to do a four hour shift on a rota basis, with no minimum commitment. Free car parking, mileage, food and drink are provided. For more information please call 01799 510525 or email: volunteer@volunteeruttlesford.org.uk. CVSU are also providing a community responder who visits the hotel where Ukrainians with no onward plans have been placed, to provide additional help, including interpreters.



Over the last five years, Churches Together in Stansted (CTS) have helped one Afghan and three Syrian families settle in Stansted. Now CTS is joining forces with Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford, who are working with the charity *Herts Welcomes Refugees* to set up **hospitality support groups** to help Ukrainian refugees and their hosts. When the refugees arrive in our country they are traumatised and bewildered. They need a tremendous amount of support, including practical help setting up bank accounts, signing up for health care and education and accessing language lessons. It is not reasonable to expect the hosts to manage all these tasks on their own. If you would like to help, please call Mione on 656634, or email: mionegoldspink@hotmail.com. You do not need to have any church connection. Thank you.

Yvonne Estop
On behalf of Churches Together in Stansted

LINK ADVERTISING

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Premier Detailing Company page 28



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2 - 5 pm Sun 5th Jun

2 - 3 pm The Bells will ring

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Refreshments including cream teas

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

1 & 15	Wed	Bereavement Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
1	Wed	Garden Club	Day Centre 8 pm
4	Sat	Windmill Open	1.30 - 3.30 pm
		Jubilee Picnic	Recreation Ground 2 - 7 pm
5	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
5	Sun	Jubilee Open Sunday	St Mary's Church 2 - 5 pm
7	Tue	Stansted is well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Thu	Link copy due in today	before noon
		WI	Day Centre 7.15 for 7.30 pm
10	Fri	Business Forum	The Linden 7 am
11	Sat	Muddy Dog Challenge	Elms Farm 10 am
		Festive Evensong	St Mary's Church 4 pm
12 & 26	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Pk 12.30 - 4.30 pm
14	Tue	RSPB	B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
16	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
18	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
25	Sat	Church Music Recital	St Peter's Church, Ugley 7.30 pm
26	Sun	Dog Fun Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm



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RIGHT ROYAL CELEBRATIONS

I was just five years old when Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne so have few memories of that occasion. However, I do recall the party held on the large grassy space near my home in Bishop's Stortford to celebrate the Coronation; it rained and I came last in the egg and spoon race!

But who could forget the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012; the parades, processions, Jubilee concert and especially the magnificent Pageant that took place on the river Thames? The spectacle lasted over four hours and despite the cold, rainy weather, thousands of people lined the river bank to wave and cheer the Queen. In Stansted we celebrated in style with various events during June. St John's Church held a flower festival, and a Fun Day and Fête in the Memorial Gardens on a sunny bank holiday Monday.



The Free Church put on an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia showing Stansted Methodist and URC Churches throughout the years, and the windmill hosted displays from the local History Society. The WI held a special cream tea later in the month and there were street parties too. The Parish Council refurbished the fountain island at the top of Chapel Hill to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and a new plaque was added to the railings.



Photographs by Yvonne Ayres and Mike Howes

Events planned nationally to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee include the Queen's Birthday Parade, a televised Platinum Party at the Palace and a Jubilee Pageant, as well as the lighting of Beacons across the British Isles (including in Stansted) and Commonwealth over the weekend. Here we can look forward to being part of the special community Jubilee Picnic at the Recreation Ground on **Saturday 4th June** (page 20) and to the celebration taking place in St Mary's Church on **Sunday 5th June** (page 13). A commemorative oak tree will also be planted on Mountfitchet Green at a later date. Guests from Rungis will be joining us for the Jubilee weekend so here's hoping we are blessed with good weather, and that we all enjoy a right royal time.

Yvonne Ayres



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**MANUDEN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

www.manudenprimary.co.uk

We are finally back for the 19th year of our fantastic music extravaganza on **Saturday 9th July** 2.00pm-8.30pm in Hargrave Park with live bands, including regular favourites, *The Jjars* and *Goat Patrol*. We have Jay Lewis returning, and we are very excited to introduce *Shakila*, *Industrial Language*, *Milla* and our very own DJ Fran. As well as great music, we have a BBQ, beer tent, bouncy castles for the children, ice creams, sweet tent, novelty stall and more. Tickets: £15 advance, £18 on the day, under 16s free if accompanied by an adult, available from Bentfield Primary School office, The Dog and Duck, Russell Property in Castle Maltings and Intercounty on Cambridge Road. Dust off your festival gear and make your way down to this fun filled event. Whether you want to get up and dance or relax in a chair with a cold drink, whilst listening to some great music, we look forward to seeing you and thank you for supporting our school. Funds raised in previous years have helped to pay for upgrading the school playground, buying iPads and refurbishing the light and sound room. There are still many projects that you can help us to support.

Local businesses: we are still looking for sponsors to support us with the costs of our stage and other facilities. If you would like an opportunity to promote your business through advertising at the event and in our programme, please contact us.

The Organising Committee
Bentfield School PTA

Tel: 813626

Email: mitpstansted@gmail.com



**STANSTED
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www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

The weather was very kind to us for our open days over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend and we had a steady stream of visitors. The Easter Egg hunt attracted over 30 families and the children really enjoyed the challenge of climbing the four sets of step ladders that lead to the top floor of the mill in search of the eggs.

We were really pleased to receive a community grant of £500 from the Parish Council which will enable us to improve the grounds around the mill. We have some great souvenirs for sale including a selection of tea towels and fridge magnets. Every home in the village should have at least one of these! We also have sweatshirts, baseball caps, flour sacks, cards and windmills for the children, all at very reasonable prices. The mill will be open **Saturday 4th June** 1.30pm-3.30pm as part of the events which the Parish Council are organising to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are also open on **Sunday 5th June** and **Sunday 3rd July** 1.30pm-5.30pm, and please keep Bank Holiday Monday 29th August free for the annual Fête.

Trevor Lloyd

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk

Last month the school choir took part in the much-anticipated Young Voices concert at the O₂; it was certainly worth the wait as they performed with a massed choir of over 8,000 children's voices, accompanied by live professional musicians and guest artists under the baton of conductor David Laurence. The sense of awe and wonder was palpable when the choir first entered the arena and the excitement only increased when we saw the luxury surroundings of our corporate suite, which was definitely an added bonus this year.



The atmosphere was truly electric with Carl Orff's dramatic *O Fortuna* from *Carmina Burana* to start us off, complete with amazing lighting effects. The concert included musical favourites such as a *Muppets Medley*, a *Lion King Medley* and the ever-popular *Pop Medley*. A surprise favourite this year was a rousing rendition of *Mambo Italiano*, which proved particularly popular due to the energetic dance moves choreographed by street dancers Urban Strides. *Sing from your Heart* and *Power in Me* were firm favourites among our school choir as was the moving rendition of *The Living Years*, where the children signed the chorus using British Sign Language. As the evening drew to a close, we sang the children's own personal favourite this year, the *Beatles Medley*, the climax of which saw the whole arena, including the parents and guest artists, singing *Hey Jude*. The children performed brilliantly and were a credit to us all in their enthusiasm and dedication as well as their exemplary behaviour throughout the day - a proud moment for everyone and memories to share forever. If you are interested in joining our friendly, nurturing village school, please contact the school office.

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Marnie Tait
Acting Headteacher
Tel: 813370

Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk






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IN MEMORIAM
RICHARD SHERVINGTON TD DL
 19th April 1937 - 28th March 2022



Richard Shervington, more commonly known as Rich or Dick, died peacefully in Addenbrooke's Hospital on Monday 28th March, surrounded by family. Originally from Woodford Green, Richard lived in Stansted for 61 years with his beloved wife Inga, who passed away in 2017. Richard was father to James and Julia, father-in-law to Stephanie and Sean, Pops to Matthew, Harry and Maximus and brother to Janet Hollis and Patrick Shervington. Richard enriched the lives of all who knew him, whether family, friends, colleagues or fellow associates of the numerous charities and establishments he supported. He spent most of his working life at Price Waterhouse Coopers in London, but will be better known locally for his devotion and service to local organisations including being a former President of Stansted Tennis Club, President of the local Conservatives and was honoured to be a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.

Some will remember Richard giving the Exhortation on Remembrance Sunday in the Memorial Gardens, awarding the President's Cup (which he donated) at the Tennis Club, canvassing during elections and contributing time, advice and financial support to local groups. In more recent years he will be remembered for driving around the village in his large mobility scooter, often with his dog Tibbie in tow. Described as a larger-than-life character, Richard was loving, loyal, determined, gregarious and generous of spirit; he will be missed by all those whose lives he touched. The family would like to thank everyone for their kind words of remembrance which have made them smile, laugh, cry and be thankful that Richard was a guiding light in their lives. If you would like to make an in-memory donation to The Friends of St Mary's, please email: janhollis@btinternet.com and she will advise how to do this.

Julia Shervington



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* which opens on Fridays; see separate article on page 2 for more information.

Mike and Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



www.stortvalleyrotary.com

The first phase of signs for the Bishop's Stortford Historic Signage project were erected in March at Windhill, Market Square, Hockerill and at Southmill Arts Centre. They show the history of Bishop's Stortford as far back as Saxon times, in both words and pictures. Bishop's Stortford Town Council funded the project with a grant available from the European Union subject to a March completion. With their help and encouragement, we just made it. The Bishop's Stortford History Society led by Rob Francis provided the words, and the pictures were provided from their archives by the Museum at Southmill. Volunteer Mike James' encyclopaedic knowledge proved particularly helpful. Rotary Club members Steve Mustill and Derek Crowther with Rob Francis of the Bishops Stortford History Society are pictured behind the sign at South Mill. More signs may feature in Castle Park when the improvements are complete.



Pubs in the area and their generous customers boosted this year's total for the Club's Easter Egg Raffle to a new high of £1,100. Proceeds go to Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust, a cause which always gets a good response.

Peter Latham

Tel: 881607

Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com



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www.stanstedbusinessforum.com

We had a good breakfast meeting at the Linden recently. Terry Upham from WPA Healthcare Practice gave us a broad overview about typical treatment costs that are covered by health insurance. These included costs for hip replacements, knee replacements and cataracts. He also gave us an update on pre-existing conditions relating to health insurance and basic levels of cover once the policy is underwritten. He discussed multi-household policies and health screening. If you are interested in healthcare insurance, then email: terry.upham@wpa-hcp.org.uk.



We also had an interesting talk from Sarah Fahy from the Portland Child Contact, a local charitable organisation run by volunteers. Sarah gave us an overview of services, referrals, and supportive contact, which aims to keep children in touch with parents if trust has broken down or communication is difficult. Parents do not have to meet, and several families use the facilities at the same time. Staff are always very careful to ensure the safety of parents and children. It is a child-centred environment, and the charity has a variety of games, toys and books for children of all ages. We are pleased to say thank you to two of our member businesses, Michaela Bitten from D Honour and Son and Becky from JKL Construction who have kindly donated money towards the entertainment for the Parish Council picnic at the Recreation Ground on **Saturday 4th June**. Our next meeting is on Friday 10th June; email: info@communityengagementconsultants.co.uk or see our website for further information.



Iris Evans
Treasurer



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our final meeting of the season was held on Thursday 5th May with a well-attended AGM. Our incoming Chairman, David Perry, read out a letter from our retiring Chairman, Peter Brown, who has not been able to attend for the year. Peter thanked everyone for their continued support and in particular restarting the meetings after such a difficult period due to the pandemic. We also bade farewell to long-serving Vice Charman, Peter Sanders, who stood down from the role, but will stay on in the Committee. With the new

officers now in place the Treasurer reported that despite everything over the last couple of years we were still in a comfortable financial position.

There followed a slide presentation of April's talk on *Photographs of Local Airfields* which John Scraggs briefly went through again, this time with images for everyone to enjoy on the screen! Our new programme will start in September at the Day Centre. The full programme including speakers will be published in the September Link. We wish all our members a very good summer and see you all again later in the year.

Roger Barrett

Tel: 814216

Email: rmbartlett54@gmail.com



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

We held a churchyard working party to clean up the churchyard at the end of April. Over a six-hour period we had 12 scouts, four parents and three scout leaders all helping the regular churchyard crew. We achieved so much! Huge thanks once again to Mike and the two Marks for the organisation of the scouts, and to everyone who helped.



Photo by Mike Byrne

June is a rather special month as we celebrate the milestone 70 Jubilee years of the Queen's reign. Our events include:

Sunday 5th June

2.00pm-3.00 pm The bells at St Mary's will ring

3.00pm-4.00pm The Stansted u3a singers will sing for us. Refreshments available. How about a cream tea?

Saturday 11th June

At 4.00pm the Pheon Singers, former members of Cambridge University chapel choir, will sing a festive Evensong in celebration of the Queen's birthday. The service will be led by Rev'd Colin Fairweather and music will include a range of English choral classics; all are welcome. As always donations are much appreciated. Hope to see you all there.



Lynda Dale

Tel: 07716 099474

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

As a nation we stand in awe of Her Majesty the Queen. What an achievement it is that she can this year celebrate her Platinum Jubilee as monarch for the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. This month of June will be an opportunity to participate in beacon lighting, festivities and street parties up and down the land, and we get an extra Bank Holiday!

The Bible also speaks about 'the year of Jubilee', which came every 50th year and was a year when people were released from their debts, all slaves were freed, and property was handed back to its rightful owners. Whilst none of us wishes to devalue the significance of Her Majesty's service to our nation, the milestone comes at a difficult time for our nation and our world. The cost of living crisis will 'enslave' millions, causing real and significant heart-ache and worry.

As Christians we do not have a magic wand that can make the energy bill or soaring shopping bill disappear into thin air, but we might well be able to signpost people to agencies that can help. *Christians Against Poverty* is one such group. So, whilst the outer circumstances might be difficult for many of us, let us try to enjoy the moment, giving thanks to God for her Majesty the Queen, and for her faithfulness and commitment to the oath she took, serving God and nation. Being a part of those celebrations might just do us all some good, and lift our spirits. In an old Salvation Army song, we sing in the chorus:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

Enjoy the party!

Major Alan Frederiksen
Salvation Army



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 June

5th 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
12th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
19th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
26th 10.30am Denis Walker

Easter Services

It was good to return to our usual traditions over Easter including decorating the cross on Easter Sunday morning, which we have not been able to do for three years.



The Place on the Hill continues to be open on Wednesdays 10am-noon in the church foyer for adults only, and we have recently opened *Fun Place on the Hill* on Fridays 9.15am-11.30am in the church hall, primarily aimed at adults with children, but all ages are welcome (see separate articles, pages 11 and 2).



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

Associate Priest Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145
Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

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

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

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



From St John's Registers

Baptism
1st May Leah Elizabeth Tyrrell

Funeral
19th April Richard Anthony Shervington, age 84 -
at St Mary's, interment in cemetery

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the April draw:

£100	No 155	Ann Lee
£ 50	No 119	Brenda Siracusa
£ 25	No 41	Anthony Minshull

The draw for June will be held on **26th June** 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

CATHOLIC

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www.sttheresasstansted.org

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

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Email: desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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Tuesday 7.15pm Confessions 8.00pm Mass
Wednesday Noon Confessions 12.30pm Mass
Thursday/Friday 9.00am Confessions 9.30am Mass
Baptism by appointment



ST THERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Concert in aid of Caritas Anchor House

Many thanks to everyone who attended or supported the concert on 7th May. Caritas Anchor House is an organisation which supports those who are in need of a job and accommodation. The u3a Singers conducted by Isobel gave their all to make the evening a great success and we also had the privilege of a recital of *Mozart Sonata No 16* from Francesca Wee. A big thank you also to her talented brothers Ethan and Isaac who played for us during the interval, and Graham Evans who gave his own take on *Mack the Knife* and *Born Free* which almost brought the roof down. The huge raffle added to the fun and the amount raised was a whopping £1,000 plus. Thank you again to everyone involved.

Eileen Quinn



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 Quaker guided meditation. More information on the noticeboard outside the Meeting House, or contact me. A session is held on the second Saturday of each month.

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



www.stanstedfamilychurch.co.uk

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

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

If you wish to attend any meeting for the first time, you will be very welcome, but please contact us to have the venue confirmed. All meetings are now entirely in-person, rather than online. Some groups will be taking an early summer break, from June to September. Regular members receive updates on dates and 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?



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IN MEMORIAM
JOHN DUNBAR
17th May 1977 - 9th April 2022



It is with a heavy heart that I write that our son John has died. Some of you may remember him in the village, as he grew up here. He was born at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. From the start the medical staff were baffled and it took until he was nine to obtain a diagnosis of *Hypomelanosis of Ito*. Needless to say, it was quite a rare syndrome. When he was seven months old, we were to move to Harlow, as his dad had a job there. I did not want to live in Harlow, and we discovered there was a free company coach with its last drop-off in Stansted Mountfitchet. So, it was here we moved in January 1978. At first, I was unaware of the benefits the village would offer us. In Leicestershire we had been given no support for John. After registering at the GP's surgery, we were referred to Great Ormond Street hospital and also for physiotherapy at Rye Street hospital. Mrs James, our physiotherapist, was marvellous and between us we taught him to sit up, crawl and walk.

As he grew older, he was offered a place at the Spinney nursery in Harlow with transport provided. He loved it there. We discovered there was a special school in the village, Peter Kirk School; John enrolled there just before his fifth birthday. We all loved that school and he flourished. Many may remember the school's floats in the Stansted Carnival? I think we won most years. Added to that excitement were the annual jumble sales. My children still talk with great fondness of those events. They had a £1 to spend and what treasures they all bought! When John was seven, we were surprised and delighted to discover that there was a Tortoise Scout troop here in the village. John enrolled and for many, many years he enjoyed the evening meetings and the camping holidays. Those helpers were amazing, so patient, and proffered great support to us all. Finally, when he was seven or eight, John was invited to join the Huw Johnson Club. Over the years John has enjoyed holidays, Thursday evening meet-ups and a great fun social life. So heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and members.

In conclusion, I want to thank all the agencies in Stansted, who worked so hard to give John a taste of life and excitement. He loved it all. Thank you all!

Vivienne Dunbar



**THE HUNDRED
PARISHES SOCIETY**
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Stained glass has been with us for over a thousand years, traditionally used in windows of places of worship. The Hundred Parishes has some beautiful memorial windows, mostly from the 19th and early-20th centuries, but I would like to briefly describe a few more recent examples.

The Parish Church of St Andrew in Much Hadham has a window on the west wall of the tower based on an etching by the renowned sculptor, Henry Moore. The window, depicting the Tree of Life, was created by Patrick Reyntiens and celebrates the joint use of the church by Church of England and Roman Catholic congregations. In Little Easton, the parish church is dedicated to St Mary the Virgin and has two stained-glass windows in the north chapel that honour the American air crews of 386th Bomb Group, known as the Crusaders, who lost their lives in WWII. The windows are the Crusaders Window and the Window of Friendship and Peace.



Another window dedicated to American airmen can be found in St Georges, Anstey. The Millennium Window shown above records the names of all the men of 398th Bomb Group who died in WWII, etched onto butterflies. In Broxted, 13th century St Mary's church has two modern stained-glass windows, the Hostage Windows. They were installed following the release in 1991 of three men: Terry Waite, Brian Keenan and local man John McCarthy. All had been held hostage in Lebanon for five years. One window is called the Window of Captivity and the other the Window of Freedom. They were designed by John Clarke and replaced two Victorian windows. When you are out and about, I hope you will pause to look in our churches at the wonderful range of craftsmanship, some old and some not so old.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226



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www.daisymaysfarm.org

The sun has been shining and our babies just keep on coming in all sorts of shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is that they are so very cute. On our open days, come and bottle feed the lambs and kid goats at 10.30am, 12.30pm or 2.30pm; they love it and you will too!



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We are a working and community farm and are run solely by volunteers, as a not-for-profit organisation. The money we raise from your visits makes sure our animals stay well fed and watered. So, in essence, this is a win-win situation; you have a lovely time seeing our animals and as a direct result, we can afford to ensure they are all well looked after. Thank you! If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Also, if you arrange school trips, come and have a chat with us, we love having the schoolchildren here and they love coming here for an informative and fun day out. There is so much going on at the farm: small animal enclosure, play area and ride on toys, woodland trail, arts and crafts, picnic area, Snack Shack; make sure you do not miss out. We really look forward to seeing you soon. We are in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk



We were fortunate enough to have a visit from Linda Strachan, a British fencer who competed in both the 1988 and 1992 Olympics. Linda chatted with the children about the Commonwealth activities we will be participating in over the next few months. The children had lots of questions for her and enjoyed admiring her medals and the Olympic Torch.

As mentioned in a previous column, we are proceeding with our whole school artist approach. This term we are studying

Julian Beever who excels in imaginative illusion art. We will be using chalk on our playgrounds to give it a go. I was very proud of our Going Green Club earlier this month as they celebrated the 2022 Earth Day by making pledges that focused on plants, power and plastic. To that aim they picked litter for three weeks, planted flowers at school and ensured that lights were off in any unoccupied classrooms. All members received a Blue Peter Green badge. You may have noticed a new addition to the front of our school; we have a brand new clothes bank. It is accessible during school hours to the whole community; all contributions must be bagged please. If you know anyone who has a large contribution but cannot get here in school hours, please telephone the school office and we will be able to help.



Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212



1st STANSTED SCOUTS

One of our badges this term is the Air Researcher badge, so we arranged a trip to the fabulous RAF museum in Hendon. The museum has question sheets for different organisations and using the relevant sheets, the Scouts set off looking all around the museum for answers to the badge questions. The adults ambled around stopping for a coffee under the Sunderland flying boat. We arranged to meet at lunch time where we found that some had finished their sheets while others were yet to start! After lunch, another coffee and more questions.



This museum is a very well-run, free and fabulous collection which I think everyone should try to visit. We all had a great time and we will definitely go again.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 07711 477363

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



...with news of Jubilee celebrations, revised cemetery rules, details on how to enter Stansted in Bloom, applications for parking restrictions, & how our plans for the village's green spaces are progressing

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



The Trooping of the Colour on June 2 kicks off the Queen's Jubilee Weekend, but celebrations move closer to home later that day when we participate in the lighting of 1,500 **Platinum Jubilee Beacons** across the British Isles and Commonwealth.

You will need to head to the Recreation Ground at 9.45pm (though we would ask those wishing to watch this event to gather at the Rec from 9.30pm) to see the village's 2-metre tall beacon lit. A resident who celebrates their birthday over the Central Jubilee Weekend will have the honour of lighting the beacon. The U3A choir will sing Jerusalem and the National Anthem to make the event even more memorable.

The celebrations to mark the Queen's 70 year-long reign return again to the Rec on Saturday, June 4 - when the Parish Council's **Jubilee Community Picnic** gets under way from 2pm.

Expect food stalls and catering vans from the award-winning **Brohmon** (Asian food) and **Bear & Eden** (ice-cream and sandwiches) as well as tea, coffee and cakes from the **Women's Institute**, along with a host of other caterers. The **Cork House** will be on site serving up drinks, and after all costs have been met, any proceeds from the event will go to support a local charity. Residents are also welcome to bring their own food and refreshments to enjoy at the picnic, which will come to a close at 7pm.

...AND HERE FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT...

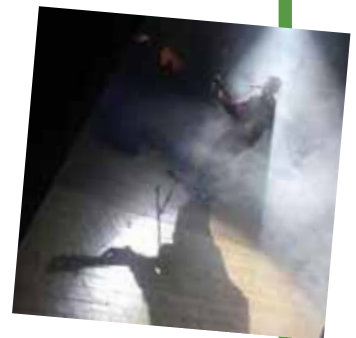
Arts & craft stalls, face painting, a bouncy castle, ice-creams and other refreshments are just some of the ways youngsters can fill their time whilst the grown-ups are entertained by some of the community's most talented live performers at the picnic.



Kids can get lost in their very own dream world thanks to the East Herts & North West Essex **Pop-Up Play Village**. The play village offers a fun and exciting way for children to adventure into the world of shopkeepers, chefs, vets, construction workers, nurses and more; or they can explore their creativity at the

art and crafts area.

One of the highlights of the day will be the live entertainment. Institute of Contemporary Music Performance graduate **Jay Williams**, a local singer-songwriter, is a regular on the area's gig circuit. Check out his song *24 Hours*, on Spotify for a taste of his talents.



Another local artist sure to win over plenty of new fans is **Shakila K**. The Bishop's Stortford based singer-songwriter has opened for East -17, performed at Wembley and the Royal Albert Hall, and entertained audiences over the airwaves for the BBC.

We will be updating you of the other live acts performing on June 4 on our social media pages and website in the days and weeks leading up to the event.

NEW CEMETERY RULES

Our cemetery rules have been reviewed to bring them in line with contemporary attitudes. For example, gravestones will now be allowed to feature images of the deceased, unlike before. Another welcome change is there are no longer restrictions on children visiting the Parish Council Cemetery. The rules will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if there are changes to the legislation governing graveyards. You can read the latest version of the rules at www.stansted.net/policies.



STANSTED IN BLOOM 2022

Bees are buzzing, trees are blossoming, and birds are in full song. All of which can mean only one thing - it is time to get your entry form in for this year's Stansted in Bloom Competition.

You have until **Friday, June 10** to get your application off to competition organisers. Forms can be picked up from reception at the Mountfitchet Exchange, Folies of Stansted, Paris Legore florist or simply download a copy from our website. Scan and email it over to stanstedinbloom@gmail.com or hand it in at our office.

Last year's event was one of the competition's most successful to date. This year, there are no less than seven categories to attract as many entrants as possible:

- Front Garden
- Main Garden (large)
- Main Garden (small)
- Hanging Baskets, Tubs, Containers
- Fruit & Vegetable Plots (allotments or gardens)
- Communal Areas (care homes & schools)
- Commercial establishments (pubs, clubs, shops, etc)

Judging gets under way on **Sunday, June 26** with three sets of judges setting off around the village to assess entrants' gardens, plots and outdoor spaces.



With standards so high in recent times, many of the entries have become recognised village beauty spots in their own right. Organisers hope entrants will be willing to open up their gardens and green spaces for visitors after judging ends.

Stansted will also again be competing for glory in the **Anglia in Bloom** competition after success in last year's festival. The focus of Anglia in Bloom is on the managed public spaces of villages and towns. In its first outing, Stansted picked up a silver gilt award for its overall entry. The Parish Council will again be supporting our entry in the hope that we can do even better this year.

RECEPTION HOURS

We are trialling new hours for our reception at the Mountfitchet Exchange. You can now visit us in person on **weekdays from 10am to 2pm**. As before, you can phone or email on Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, except on Wednesdays when it's 9am to 2pm (although our staff work beyond these hours!).

As a side note, the District Council continues to plan to use £10k in funds to offer improved access to its services which we hope will include some representation at the Mountfitchet Exchange. The timing of this is dependent on restructuring at the District Council.

WEIGHTY MATTERS

Applications by the Parish Council for **parking restrictions** are working their way through the system at the North Essex Parking Partnership. Permission for yellow lines along parts of **Cambridge Road, Spencer Close, Lower Street and Chapel Hill** are being considered by the Parking Partnership following residents' comments for and against the various schemes. The volume of heavy goods vehicle traffic through Stansted is a hot topic that gets frequent airing at our meetings. We are pleased that Essex County Council is progressing **measures to limit HGVs**, especially on **Grove Hill**. Weight restrictions are to be applied to a number of our roads, new signage put up and mobile speed cameras employed to slow speedsters down and curtail HGV traffic. Sat Nav companies are being asked to remove Stansted from their suggested routes through local roads, reports Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding.



GREEN SHOOTS, GREEN SPACES

Our programme of sprucing up the green spaces of Stansted has been gathering pace. **Mountfitchet Green** has a new zip-wire, a disabled swing is also in the pipeline for the playground, and the multi-purpose games area is to get a fresh coat of paint this summer.

We are also seeking a lease from Uttlesford District Council to make it easier to manage the Green. The area is also to be one of two recipients of a Jubilee tree - the other spot being the **Recreation Ground**. Meanwhile a trim trail is on its way for **Wilkins Crescent**, already a recipient of extra play equipment.

We are working with Tom Moat from the Essex Forest Initiative to identify parts of Stansted that could benefit from extra trees and shrubs. Tom was instrumental in helping us replenish **Newman's Plantation**, where hundreds of shrubs and saplings were planted after the woodland had been struck by Ash die-back.

Progress, albeit slow, is also being made in the handover of land and allotments from developers at Elms Farm and Walpole Meadows. Two weeks of corrective work at **Elms Farm** is to see the landscape improved, trees replaced, and weeds tackled. At **Walpole Meadows**, site visits to the allotments are planned by Bloor Homes, District Councillors, and district council officials to resolve issues preventing the transfer of ownership to the Parish Council.



CALMING WORDS

It was great to hear recently that the reassuring presence of Special Constable Steve Dale and our PCSO Alex Stewart worked to calm troubled waters at the **Youth Centre** on Lower Street. Regular visits by the officers and their colleagues from the Uttlesford Community Policing team to the Youth Club did the trick of stopping troublesome youths from outside Stansted disrupting life at the centre on Lower Street.

The incident not only reminds us of the need to fund local police services - Steve and Alex are both parish-funded we might add - but once again underlines the importance of forging good relations with our younger residents. For this reason, we would encourage anyone under the age of 18 living in Stansted (or attending a local school or college) to consider joining either the Youth Club or our **Youth Council**.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Ayub Khan
District Councillor



Airport fly parking:

As the country now starts to recover from the pandemic and people start to travel, one of the consequences has been the return of airport fly parking to the area.

Following concerns raised by residents on the Mountfitchet Estate, Cllr Caton and I met with the Community Team at Stansted Airport to take them on a tour of the area to view the problems caused by airport fly parking. I am pleased to announce that following our discussions, Stansted Airport has agreed to install "No Airport Parking" signs across the estate.



In addition to the above, we have also agreed that the "No Airport Parking" signage will be placed on the following roads on Foresthall Park.

- Walson Way
- Reeve Road
- Livings Way
- Palmer Close
- Forest Hall Road

This is a good outcome for both areas as a first measure to try and alleviate the problem of airport parking.

Parking Restrictions

District Councillors have been working with the Parish Council and the North East Parking Partnership to discuss appropriate restrictions on the **Mountfitchet Estate** and **Foresthall Park**. This follows concerns related to parking, speeding and safety at junctions.

A consultation will be published in the next few months to inform residents on the process and timescales. It is likely that the Parking Partnership will implement any agreed restrictions in autumn 2023. Further information will be provided through the Parish Council Highways Committee.

Emerging Uttlesford Local Plan

The first draft of the latest attempt to create an Uttlesford Local Plan is due to go out to consultation with residents from June 20 to July 29. It is worth reminding residents that the R4U administration decided to withdraw the previous Local Plan and start the process again.

This decision has cost the District Council some £7m. All four Stansted District Councillors voted against this approach as we wanted the administration to retain and repair the previous plan. Thus, saving money and reducing duplication and avoiding something of a developer free-for-all.

The result of withdrawing the previous plan means that Uttlesford will be required to build 706 houses per annum until 2040 instead of 636 houses per annum, under the withdrawn plan. In total Uttlesford District Council now must find sites for around 16,000 houses.

Stansted District Councillors are not against house building and have always been in favour of the creation of new well integrated communities rather than developer-led additions to the edges of existing communities.

We consider that any development in existing settlements must come with considerable benefits to the community in the form of additional infrastructure, services, and facilities, e.g. for sports and recreation, culture and open spaces that improve the wellbeing and quality of life of our residents. In addition, all new developments must be low carbon. Highways MUST be able to cope.

Like the Parish Council we are opposed to the proposed new settlement at Bollington Hall in Ugley on the grounds of the negative impact on Stansted Mountfitchet, especially traffic on B1383, public services, and coalescence of a new settlement with our village.

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
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-1pm
Reception Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm (six-month trial basis)
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. Questions can be asked during Public Participation at the start of Full Council meetings; permission is needed to film or record proceedings.

- **June 1** Open Spaces
- **June 15** Full Council
- **June 29** Finance & General Purposes

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email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

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PCSO 81764 Alex Stewart
email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk
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Incidents can be raised online: www.essex.police.uk/ro/report
Details of community engagement events in May at Facebook/EP Uttlesford

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:

- June 12, June 26

DEFIBRILLATORS

There are seven public access defibrillators around Stansted. 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.

- The Day Centre, Crafton Green, CM24 8AX
- 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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IN MEMORIAM
DEREK BAYFORD
7th December 1945 – 11th April 2022



It was a great shock to many people in Stansted to hear of the sudden death of Derek Bayford. He was very much part of village life as a fire officer, gardener, neighbour and friend. Derek was born in Bishop's Stortford and was brought up in a farm cottage at Cradle End, Little Hadham. Hard work, self-sufficiency, self-reliance and 'making do' were all qualities instilled in him from an early age. After leaving school he served an apprenticeship with Franklins at Bishop's Stortford as a motor vehicle mechanic. He then moved to Stansted Motor Company for a time before setting up as an independent motor vehicle engineer. Derek joined Essex County Fire and Rescue Service at Stansted in February 1973 and served until his retirement as Officer-in-Charge in June 2001. Derek led the station through many memorable incidents, including the Korean jumbo jet crash in December 1999. His time with the fire service was a very important part of his life.

When he retired at 55, he launched a new career, this time involving another passion of his, gardening. When Derek came to your garden, you felt that yours was the most important one in the world. "Why don't we move that plant here?" or "shall we put something there?" If Derek thought it was a good idea, it usually was! He loved all things mechanical, and a hobby he and his wife Karen enjoyed together was restoring vintage vehicles. Later they enjoyed canal narrow boating and more recently trips in their camper van. For the past 20 years Derek also worked for a local funeral director. He carried out his duties, as you would expect, in an efficient and dignified way. If he should happen to notice a mourner looking lost or needing help, he would discreetly guide them through any difficulties. This was Derek, always responding to people needing a helping hand and going the extra mile for them. He will be missed by so many people, not only as our hard-working reliable gardener, but as a kind thoughtful man, and a very special friend.

Kathy West
(Derek's friend, customer and neighbour)

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www.eastonlodge.co.uk

June will be a busy month, starting with our Jubilee celebration on **Thursday 2nd June** and finishing with our Open Day on **Sunday 26th June**, when we remember the Countess of Warwick's love of dogs with our own dog day. On 2nd June our volunteers will be downing tools, as it is a Bank Holiday, and celebrating the day with a picnic. During the winter we planted a *Taxodium distichum* (swamp cypress), which we will register as our contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. On that day we will put up the plaque and raise a toast. It would be great if our loyal locals wanted to join us for this. We will be open as usual for an Open Thursday with *Daisy's* providing hot and cold drinks and cakes; and visitors are always welcome to bring a picnic.



At our Open Day on Sunday 26th June, we will have stalls and dog classes, starting with puppies under six months at 12.30pm, and then with classes for veterans, waggy tailed dogs, pretty bitches and handsome dogs. The Countess was a great supporter of dog shows and became a breeder of collies and Japanese spaniels, owning 13 dogs at the time of her death. Our classes will be overseen and judged by Wendy Paffey, of Wendy's Dog Grooming and Petcare Services. Further details are on our website. Gates open as usual at 11.00am. Meantime we will be working hard to ensure the gardens are looking at their best for visitors. In June the roses and water lilies are flowering and borders turn purple with alliums, the glade has wild orchids and we start having fresh produce from the walled kitchen garden. Lots to look forward to.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

BRITISH RED CROSS GARDEN OPEN



Gaston House in Little Hallingbury (CM22 7QS) will be open on **Sunday 26th June** 2.00pm-5.00pm. Enjoy exploring the Repton style formal garden in its parkland setting and sitting in the pool garden for tea and cake. Entry is £5 and all proceeds go to the British Red Cross.

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Mental Health Awareness Week

Thanks to all who joined our virtual 'Race to Rungis'. Together, we walked and ran our way to Rungis and back again, discovered many sights along the way (see picture below) and hopefully helped people connect with each other. Please visit our website to see more lovely photos from the week.



Money worries

Managing finances can create stress and anxiety at the best of times. We are all likely to be feeling the pinch now even more so than usual. Here are a few tips and strategies to help you feel more in control:

- 1 Write a list of things you think you spend your money on over the period of a month or a week. Then, over the next month or week, write down absolutely everything you actually do spend money on. At the end of the month compare your lists. Are there any surprises?
- 2 Allocate into needs and wants - look at the items on your spending list and decide whether each item is essential (eg your mortgage/rent, utilities, council tax, petrol, weekly food shop etc) or something that you could manage without (eg gym membership, new make-up, take-away coffee etc).
- 3 Compare your income against your outgoings. Ideally, you have enough money coming in to at least cover your essentials and hopefully most of your wants too; if not you may be building up unwanted debt.
- 4 Are there any areas you could save money? For each item consider whether you can reduce it, or eliminate it entirely. For example, you could plan your weekly meals in advance so you only shop for what you need, swap premium brands for supermarket own brands or go online to check cheapest petrol prices in the area. Don't forget the new Community Foodshare run by Touchpoint every Wednesday-Friday where there is free food on offer to anyone (see page 3).

National helplines

If you are struggling with debt, or poor mental health which makes managing money harder for you, please consider contacting one of the organisations below:
www.nationaldebtline.org www.stepchange.org
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money
www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/money-and-mental-health

Dina McDonald

Email: dina.letstalkstansted@gmail.com



RSPB

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

Many readers took part in this year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Do you know that you took part in the world's largest wildlife survey and citizen science project? You may not know how it started over 40 years ago, or how its results are used and what it tells us about our much-loved garden visitors. On **Tuesday 14th June** at 7.30pm in the Bishops' Park Community Centre, we welcome Peter Holden MBE. He is an outstanding speaker; this is an opportunity not to be missed. In his 40 years of working for the RSPB Peter devised the Birdwatch and wrote over 12 bird and wildlife books (with 1.6 million sales). Peter was awarded an MBE for services to Nature Conservation in 2009. He will be giving a short personal history of the Birdwatch and the latest trends of some familiar garden birds followed by a look at some popular species and some of the fascinating stories ornithologists are discovering about them.



We plan to visit Suffolk Wildlife Trust Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve on **Saturday 11th June** at 10.00am. This is a favourite of many birders with opportunities to observe a wide range of species. It has a visitor centre and café. On **Monday 27th June** at 10.00am we have planned a pleasant way to end the year of sociable and very popular local walks. We meet at The Three Horseshoes, Spellbrook Lane East and walk along the River Stort either northerly towards Thorley Wash or southerly towards Sawbridgeworth. Whichever route we follow the walk is planned to end with a nice, sociable pub lunch. All are welcome to join our thriving and friendly group at all our activities and we look forward to you joining us. Full details of all our activities can be found on our website or by contacting me.

Peter Allen

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www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

The subject of the Club's first meeting of the new season was *Attracting Birds and Wildlife*. Roger Hance, a talented photographer, used a series of slides to explain how to encourage a variety of birds, insects, amphibians and animals into your garden. As birds need an easy escape route from predators, care should be taken when positioning bird tables and feeding stations. By planting berry-bearing shrubs and positioning the bird table nearby, the birds will feel safe and enjoy the berries whilst waiting to use the bird table. A recipe for homemade fat balls was given, along with a warning that dry bread should not be given to birds; always soak it as it can choke fledglings. He recommended adding a pond to your garden as this acts as a magnet to wildlife and will enhance the food chain. Care should be taken to ensure there is a shallow area for birds to bathe and mammals to drink, but also a deeper area for amphibians to live, with water edge plants and stones giving extra hiding places. Nectar-rich flowers will encourage bees, butterflies and moths and a bug hotel will give protection during the winter months.

Our next meeting is **Wednesday 1st June** 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. The subject is *The Human Roots Charity – its Aim*. Keiran Leigh Olivier will talk about past and future projects and explain this year's growing plans with handy tips and tricks. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting. Membership is available and visitors are always welcome to our meetings, entry £5.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 748144



MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch

Built to Last was the theme of our recent Messy Church. There were lots of craft activities based round the theme, of which making cakes with melted chocolate and cornflakes was definitely the most popular, as shown in this photograph.

Other activities included decorating stones, building straw houses, using building bricks, building on sand, drawing and playdough. The celebration time included building a wall from boxes decorated with words such as being safe, helping others, kindness, with God as the foundation. There are more photographs on our website. We now take a break until the Autumn.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: messychurch@stanstedchurches.com

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Our April meeting was open to non-members and included a few brave men who took part in our FLOG IT fundraising evening under the capable hands (or hammer) of Sue Hitchmough. About 60 people came and there were plenty of bargains to be had, including a lovely pastel picture of Birchanger Woods. It is always good when two people become fixed on bidding for the same item and the price rises and rises. At one point someone was bidding against themselves! Over £400 was raised for the Whitechapel Mission, a Day Centre for homeless people in the Tower Hamlets area of London. They were established in 1876 and distribute meals, groceries and clothing to people in need, as well as providing somewhere for them to wash and rest. Sue hopes to do a FLOG IT for another charity in September which will be open to everyone and not part of a WI meeting.



We are going to Easton Lodge in June and will be involved in the Stansted picnic on 4th June. Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 9th June at 7.30pm in the Day Centre when Tim Turner is giving his talk entitled *Queen Elizabeth II - a Gracious and Noble Reign*; visitors and new members are welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

COMPOSER WORD SEARCH

Find and circle the words from the list. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

D	N	J	H	H	N	C	T	P	X	Y	B	R
V	E	N	X	A	H	D	R	Y	K	J	E	T
O	S	Z	A	O	N	O	Y	S	H	N	E	Z
R	U	T	P	M	K	D	V	A	G	G	T	S
A	K	I	R	O	U	O	E	A	H	I	H	I
K	N	B	F	A	K	H	W	L	D	T	O	L
P	O	I	G	I	V	K	C	R	E	R	V	E
R	E	B	A	C	H	I	E	S	H	A	E	Z
V	R	H	X	W	X	V	N	I	T	Z	N	C
E	C	M	E	N	D	E	L	S	S	O	H	N
T	R	E	B	U	H	C	S	P	K	M	T	Y
B	R	A	H	M	S	M	O	L	H	Y	I	V
X	R	E	L	H	A	M	P	P	N	K	N	R

Bach Haydn Schubert Beethoven Liszt Schumann Brahms
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HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We are back!! One hundred and ten weeks after our last Thursday meeting, the Huw Johnson Club has finally restarted. Our first night since the start of the pandemic was on Thursday 28th April and we were delighted to welcome back so many of our members and volunteers again. We started with a games night and have also had a bingo evening, and are looking forward to a curling competition, a quiz and to celebrating the Jubilee with arts and crafts. All, as is tradition, washed down with tea and biscuits. We have over 20 members and it is so nice to all be together again. A huge thank you to all the Committee who have worked so hard to determine the viability of us restarting, have contacted all the members, re-established our transport rota and risk assessed against Covid; there has been a lot of behind-the-scenes work to get us operational again. We were saddened to hear that one of our founding members, John Dunbar, passed away recently (see p 17); we remember him fondly from the early days and from our annual holidays, and send our condolences to Richard, Viv and his family.

The Huw Johnson Club is a social group for adults with learning disabilities which meets on a Thursday evening in St John's Church Hall; for more information about us, please contact me. If you want to celebrate the end of lockdown by getting involved and volunteering, we need drivers and volunteers on the night so please get in touch.



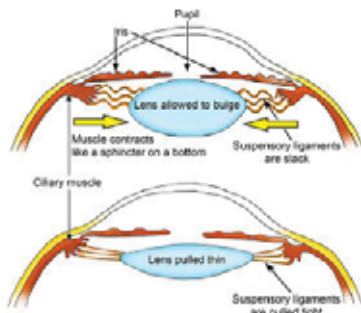
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BRAIN TRAINING

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Eye drill - this is to prevent the need for reading glasses or to combat slow deterioration. Equipment needed: a pen with writing on it and a small distant target, on the wall or outside the window.

1. Align yourself with the distant target. Ideally the target should be a letter or a number, but not essential
2. Pick a letter on the pen to stare at
3. Bring the pen as close to the bridge of your nose as you can still read the letter. It can be blurry, but not double
4. Now switch gaze from the pen to the distant target as quickly as it takes for each to become clear
5. Do this for a few seconds to start with and build the time up.



This is an excellent exercise to do during lengthy spells of staring at a screen. You can feel the muscles working as you

change target. Exercising the eyes like this encourages lens elasticity. After all, the need for reading glasses arises as the lenses lose elasticity. This exercise is relaxing because when the eyes focus on the pen, they cross and the lenses become more spherical; the eye muscles responsible for this lie at the top of the brainstem, the mesencephalon, and this is where the parasympathetic nervous system begins; this is also known as rest and digest system, as opposed to the fight and flight, or sympathetic nervous system. This is why reading a book before going to sleep can help send you off, provided the book is not so exciting that you are grimly hanging on to see what happens next.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk

It is that time of the year again when we start our plan to bring some brightness to Stansted with beautiful sunflowers - 350 already planted in anticipation of this year's annual summer fundraiser. Just to be very clear, 50 of those sunflowers are for the hungry slugs! Gotta give back right? Last year, we raised a whopping £8,725 which enabled us to help secure and build three local school gardens. Can you help us do better this year?

This year will be different from last year's attempt at flower bombing Stansted; during the summer we will be inviting local businesses to take part in helping us not only raise funds, but we will also be hosting team building sessions for those that wish to get out and drip our village in the golden sunflower sunshine. If you don't have a team of volunteers to help us, we have more options:

- For every £5 donated we will plant a sunflower for you
- For £10 we will send you a sunflower in a pot for you to plant at home. We can only offer this to people living within a 10-15 mile radius of Stansted
- For corporates, if you can raise between £1,000 and £10,000, we will host an event for you and your teams.

We would love you to get in touch soon to arrange your team building days, as slots fill up quickly. We are aiming to plant all our sunflowers over four weeks in May and June, so stay tuned for updates. For more information please contact us or check out our social media. To donate please go to <https://localgiving.org/fundraising/sunflowersforschoolsHR> CG/ or scan the QR code.



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

STANSTED HOME GUARD

You will remember that we printed a photograph of the Stansted Civil Defence team in April's edition of The Link, submitted by Dot and John Salmon. They also sent the picture below of Stansted Home Guard, and many thanks to them for this wonderful photo, taken so many years ago.



As with the previous photo, there are several members of the Home Guard group with no name attached; if you are able to fill in the gaps, please let Dot and John know by emailing dandjsalmon@gmail.com. Thank you in advance.

The Link Team

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 7th June** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street when we will be discussing *Shadowplay* by Joseph O'Connor. This historical novel is set to a backdrop of Victorian/Dickensian London which makes an interesting setting in which to tell the tale of Bram Stoker, author of *Dracula*, and his relationship with Henry Irving and Ellen Terry. The latter were two of the most famous actors in late 19th century England, and actor/manager and leading lady at the Lyceum Theatre. It should be an informative read and might inspire us to go on to read *Dracula* if we fancy a bit of classic gothic horror. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us, a warm welcome will await.



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



RECYCLING



We continue to have an amazing response to our request for old spectacles **and** cases; please keep them coming. Along with stamps, original ink cartridges, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag), they 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





STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

I am hoping that by the time this issue is published I will have been able to give members better news, but at the time of writing we have had a disastrous start to the 2022 season and the green has had to be closed. Despite the same regime as previous years being followed with regard to fertiliser application there has been catastrophic damage to the green through over-application in patches, which has caused large areas of the green to be lost through scorching. We still do not really understand how this has happened. Our green team has spent hours and hours attempting to rectify the damage and we are hoping that Mother Nature will do her bit to assist. Meanwhile, however, I cannot say that we can welcome new members to try out the sport and the Open Day event planned for the end of May is cancelled. We did manage to play one game in our new tops before the extent of the damage became apparent, see photo below.



Fortunately the bowls community is a close one and I am sure that the clubs we play will assist us as far as they are able in rearranging matches so that they are played away. We will continue to keep our members informed of developments.

Jeanette Mansell
Secretary

Tel: 07967 033924

Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com



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Do you have unwanted books at home? Would you like to update your book collection and try a few new reads? Our new Book Exchange allows you to give your old books a new home while looking for something exciting to replace them. Come to the Uttlesford Community Hub, 45 Stortford Road, Great Dunmow CM6 1DQ Monday to Friday 9.30am-4.00pm; sit and exchange a book, and enjoy a coffee for just £1 donation. See you there!

Jade Bolton

Email: jbolton@mindinwestessex.org.uk



Stansted Tennis Club

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Ladies-only Fun Day 22nd April

This was the first ladies-only tournament of the year. It was quite challenging playing in very windy conditions but the 14 ladies who took part played some good tennis and there were some very close matches. The winners were Fiona Pye and Clare Murfitt; runners up were Sandra Ayres and Chris Bailey. Winners of the consolation prize were Sue Simpson and Debbie Lane. We will be holding a Men's Only Fun tournament on **Sunday 31st July**.



Dunlop Rackets Testing Session 3rd April

Martyn Taplin organised for Steve Smith, the Dunlop Tennis rep, to spend the Sunday morning session at the Club where members were given a chance to try out different Dunlop rackets and get expert advice from Steve. It was a really enjoyable morning and very useful.

Rusty Rackets

These drop-in sessions will restart on **Sunday 5th June** 1.00pm-2.00pm and are aimed at adults who have not played for a while and are feeling a bit rusty. There is no charge for members and £2 for visitors.

Essex Small Club League

Congratulations to the Ladies Second and Ladies Third teams who both won their divisions in the winter league. The summer league is just starting.

We offer coaching at the Club; for details, please see www.olliestennis.co.uk or email Martyn Taplin mj.taplin@btinternet.com. There is a full list of events on our website. Our chosen charity for fundraising this year is the Red Cross (for Ukraine).



Debbie Lane
Publicity Officer

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



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Beaver Scouts Age 6-8 BS Beekeepers	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028 Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St John's Road and Area Association Scouts (age 10½ -14) Spangles Family Hub	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com Mike Byrne Tel: 812780 Tel: 03002 470122 Email: essexwest- hftcentraladminhub@nhs.net
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Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533		
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955		
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Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
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Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232		
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: bertiestar@gmail.com
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433	WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School 506997	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		

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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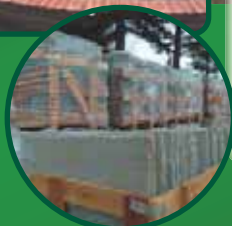
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