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Front cover:

Sunrise over the rooftops
of Brewery Lane by
Carole Gray enhanced by
Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent as separate attachments (jpeg). By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by **noon** on **9th March** for the April issue or by hand/post by noon on **7th March** to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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EDITORIAL



The glorious front cover this month comes to us courtesy of Carole Gray; you may remember that she took a great picture of the local peacocks last year. There have been an unusual number of splendid sunrises recently; I have no idea why this is, perhaps one of our readers can tell us. We are so very pleased to be receiving numerous lovely pictures from our readers, as well as a great variety of articles. This month's Link is especially rich in one-off submissions, as well as those from our regular contributors. As a result of having received so many articles, we are really pleased to say that we have four extra pages this month.

An article on page 9 on the subject of COP 26 was written by a thoughtful and caring teenager: Annie Taylor. Perhaps you remember her mother, Claire, describing a book written by Annie's twin Ellie, which featured in last November's issue. Having such clever and proactive daughters must make Claire so very proud. Another caring teenager, Elsie-May, is featured on page 17; she has taken on the unenviable job of picking litter from local streets. For all dog lovers, there is a fascinating and informative article on page 9 about adopting a dog from abroad; thank you so much to Vivienne Dunbar for this. It is good to see the local clubs beginning to enjoy meeting as they always did, and to be able to invite speakers to their regular sessions, or musicians in some cases. Long may it continue!

THE SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

We have been incredibly busy since Christmas so a big thank you to all the staff and customers. Membership is growing steadily and we now have around 750 paid up members, which bodes well for the future of the Club. Due to the pandemic we have moved the membership renewal date from 1st April to 1st July. Our two main projects for 2022 are replacing the flat roof over the pool tables and landscaping the outside of the Club to make it more attractive. Always looking to support the local community where we can, we are proud to announce that we will be sponsoring an up-and-coming young darts player from Stansted. Mason Teese, aka *Tungsten Teese*, will be trying to get his tour card on the circuit wearing the Stansted Mountfitchet badge on his shirt. Please join us in supporting Mason on his journey #masonteese.

Our entertainment programme has been extremely popular, and we were delighted to welcome a group of fabulous NHS volunteers who visited for the welcome return of *Repertoire Dogs*. Lisa Martin (aka Adele) also blew us away recently and a packed Club had a fantastic Sunday afternoon. Coming up in March we have *Matloaf* plus accompaniment on the 5th, *Frankie 'Rockin' Smith* on the 12th, *True Vybez Reggae Band* on the 19th and we round the month off with a *Mick Hucknall/Simply Red* tribute on the 26th. Our early April entertainment sees *DJ John (Old Skooler)* on the 2nd and a *Dua Lipa* tribute act on the 9th. As always, please keep an eye on Facebook www.facebook.com/StanstedClub for any changes to the schedule.



Andrew Sharpe

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Email: eatmorestilton@gmail.com

LICENSED PHARMACY FOR STANSTED

The need for a Licensed Pharmacy near the Surgery

Essex County Council (ECC) Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) team in their 2018 report states: "It can be seen that nearly the whole of Essex area population can reach a pharmacy within 20 minutes travel time by car." It makes no comment about issues such as: Chapel Hill is very steep; we should be driving less because of climate change; people with physical disabilities cannot negotiate the steps into Boots, our only licensed pharmacy, which is closed 1.00pm-2.00pm every day, and whose service is suffering as a consequence of increasing demands due to population growth in Stansted and surrounding communities.

The ECC PNA Report is being reviewed; the revised report will be published this year. I have spoken to over 600 people who have signed my petition; the community asks for choice and that another licensed pharmacy is within a convenient distance without having to use a car. Some people who have responded to the ECC online survey commented that the survey does not give the opportunity to say why another licensed pharmacy, conveniently located for those living south of the railway line and nearby communities, is needed. The community clearly supports the need for another licensed pharmacy and for it to be as close as possible to the surgery. The next step is to provide ECC PNA with details why we need this additional facility. I am now writing the report. Thank you for signing my petition and if you want to see my report, please contact me.

Ray Woodcock

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We have been very busy with our creative learning experiences at the school. Snowy Owl Class, our reception children, have been working towards performing and videoing their superhero puppet shows for their experience outcome. They started with reading *Elliot Midnight Superhero* and they talked about the beginning, middle and end of the book. They jotted down ideas for their own superhero stories, including the name of their superhero, their superpowers and the problem that they had to solve. After this task was completed, they went on to produce a more detailed storyboard. Finally, they made their puppets and performed their puppet show for each other. In Barn Owl Class, our year 1 and 2 children have been exploring transport for their experience outcome. They have been finding out all about Amelia Earhart, who was a famous female pilot. Children were fascinated by her amazing achievements and time was spent reflecting on why she is a great role model for us today. Armed with their research, children then wrote fact files about her, challenging themselves to use a range of ambitious language.



Just before our half-term holiday, we took part in Place2Be's Children Mental Health week. This year's theme was *Growing Together* and we encouraged children to consider how they have grown emotionally and how they can help others to do so. We found out that challenges and setbacks can help us to adapt and try new things, and help us move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional development is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit stuck; we explored ways in which we can support ourselves and each other when this happens.

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Marnie Tait
Acting Headteacher
Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk
Telephone: 813370

It has been a bit chilly lately, but our gorgeous animals are all lovely and snug and looking forward to having lots of visitors come and make a fuss of them. Our small animals, such as bunnies and guinea pigs, are now safely tucked away in the woodland area and are absolutely loving being amongst the trees near their friends, the snuggly pigs. Also in the woods are the owls; if you stand very still and are very quiet, they might just come out and see you. They are such amazing and fascinating creatures.



Our sheep and goats have the run-around of the space up at the top of the farm near the horses and just love being out in the open with all their friends there. Our ram Noah is down the bottom of the farm with dear Mole, our lovely sheep who has been blind but very content since birth. They have some more of our cheeky goats with them to keep them on their toes. We have all sorts of chickens, ducks, guineafowls, turkeys and geese and we often have chicken and sometimes duck eggs for you to buy.



Come on down to our farm and blow those cobwebs away! There is so much to do and see on our farm and you really must not miss all the new additions who will be born during the coming months. Check our Facebook page for updates on our new arrivals and most importantly, all our opening hours, and our *Hatch a Chick* scheme, along with other farm news updates. We look forward to welcoming you to the farm, which is in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973
Email: elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com



www.rainbowstansted.co.uk

Prior to half term we had Chinese New Year celebrations, with themed activities, including writing, making lanterns and fans. Snacks were noodles, sweet and sour sauce and prawn crackers followed by the dragon dance in which everyone participated. After half term all the children will be continuing to practise their numbers using number rhymes with visual aids; in addition they will be creating Mother's day gifts and cards. We will also be focusing on dental health, growth and people who help us.



The Co-op have selected us as one of the charities to receive support from their community fund. If you have a Co-op card please go on the app and choose Rainbow as your charity; for every £1 members spend on selected Co-op branded products and services, 2p will go into their membership account. To collect rewards and contribute to our cause, you must swipe or scan your membership card when you shop, otherwise we will miss out on funds. If you are not a member please sign up. More details can be found at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/65406>.

Rainbow Pre-School takes children from 2½ years to rising 5 and runs sessions Monday to Friday 9.00am-3.00pm. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

STANSTED TOWN TWIN QUIZ

A reminder of our St Patrick's Quiz Night on **Friday 18th March** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre. Tickets £10 to include a light supper. Teams of up to eight. We will be connecting to our friends in Rungis via video link on the night. To book please email: twinning@stansted.net.

Richard Haywood



www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Opening Soon!

Fun Place on the Hill is our new free drop-in which will be held on Fridays 9.15am-11.30am in the Free Church Hall, starting on **Friday 22nd April**. Although particularly suitable for children, we welcome adults of all ages to come and join in the *fun*! There will be free tea/coffee and biscuits for the adults, and squash and healthy snacks for the children. The hall is warm and comfortable, and offers plenty of space for children to play with toys and run around. There will be more information in next month's Link.

Sue Parker, Fran Richards and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



494 (STANSTED AIRPORT) SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

www.raf.mod.uk

The Air Training Corps (ATC) is a UK-wide youth organisation open to all young people aged between 12 and 18, supported by the Royal Air Force. Its aims are:

- to promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the RAF, providing training that will be useful both in service and civilian life
- to foster the spirit of adventure and develop the qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

The Air Cadet experience includes flying, gliding, shooting, first aid, Duke of Edinburgh Award, a variety of technological qualifications, RAF station visits, camps and much more. Based at Second Avenue, Stansted Airport Business Park CM24 1RY the 494 Squadron parades on Mondays and Thursdays 7.30pm-9.30pm and has occasional weekend activities. Cadets come from Stansted and the surrounding villages.

The squadron is operated by uniformed staff and civilian instructors, who willingly give their time and skills to encourage the cadets to learn and develop as responsible members of the community. The Squadron Association (SA) deals with the financial matters including the raising, controlling, and accounting for non-public funds and giving advice and direction on welfare issues. Whilst the Ministry of Defence sponsors some of the activities and assets, the SA needs to raise funds locally to help us provide a full Air Cadet experience. Please contact me for further information about becoming a cadet, civilian instructor, or member of the association.

Michael Dodd Sqn Ldr (ret'd) RAFVR(T)
Squadron Chairman
Tel: 07808 635652
Email: chair.494@rafac.mod.gov.uk



BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

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15th, 22nd, 29th Mar, 5th, 12th Apr
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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

1	Tue	Stansted is well read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
2	Wed	Garden Club	Free Church Hall 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6/20	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Pk 12.30 - 4.30 pm
4	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	The Linden 7 am
8	Tue	RSPB	B Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
		Tennis Club AGM	Day Centre 8 pm
9	Wed	Link copy due in today	before noon
10	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.30 pm
15	Tue	Beekeeping Course starts	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
16	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
		Annual Parish Meeting	Day Centre 7.30 pm
17	Thu	Volunteers Open Day	Easton Lodge 10 am - 3 pm
		U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
		Windmill AGM	Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm
17 Thu- 19 Sat		Water Lane Theatre Co	South Mill Arts 7.30 pm
18	Fri	Open Evening	Bowls Club 6.30 - 8.30 pm
		Town Twin Quiz	Day Centre 7.30 pm
19	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		Water Lane Theatre Co	South Mill Arts 3 pm
20	Sun	Messy Church	St John's Hall 3.30 pm
23/30	Wed	Lent Groups	Free Church Hall 7.30 for 7.45 pm



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Mar 6th & 20th
Apr 3rd & 17th



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for potential new members

6.30 - 8.30 pm Fri 18th Mar
Clubhouse, Recreation Ground

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Everyone Welcome



Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 20th Mar
St John's Church Hall

Activities ~ Celebration ~ Food
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www.stanstedchurches.com



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon
Sat 19th Mar

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Stansted Town Twinning St Patrick's Quiz Night

7.30 pm Fri 18th Mar
Day Centre

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Teams of up to 8

Live video link on the night to Rungis
All Welcome





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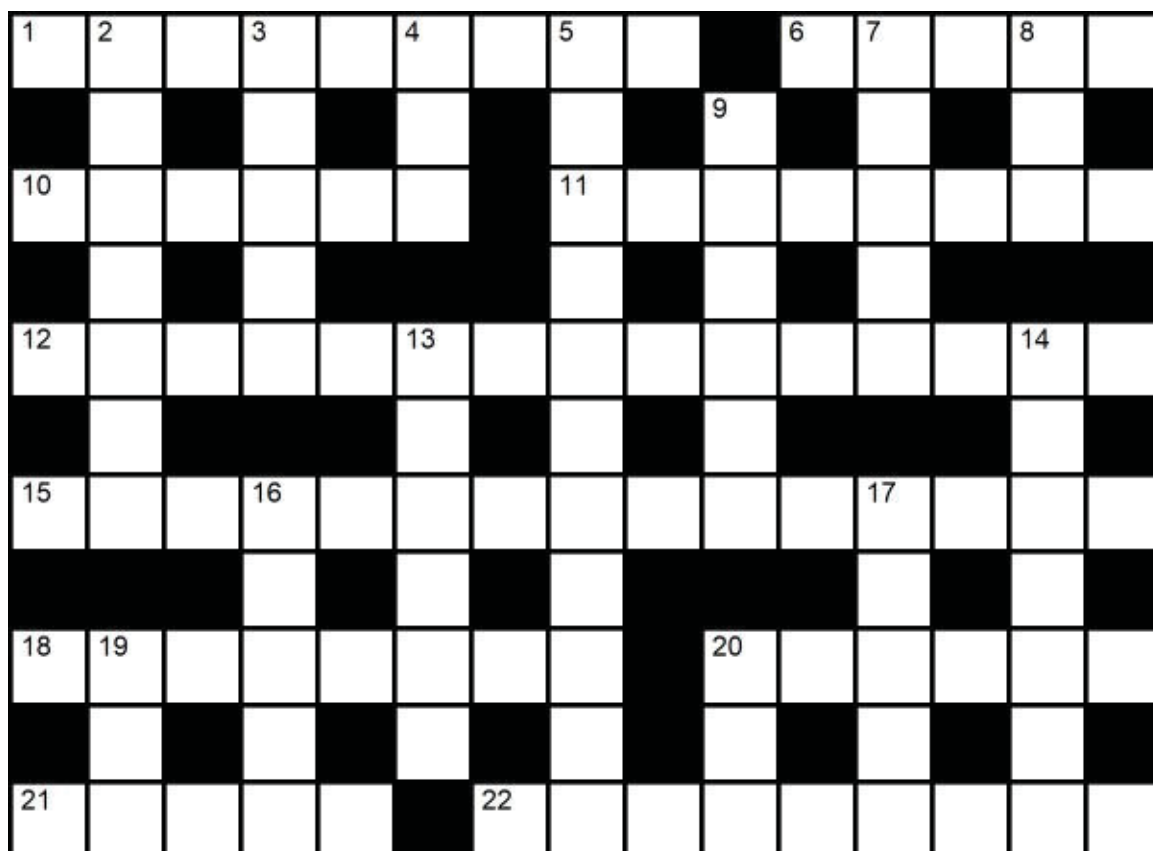
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FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Crossword Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 35

ACROSS

- 1 Einstein's continuum (5-4)
- 6 Superior part of a boot (5)
- 10 Free-moving hanging decoration (6)
- 11 ...in Blue by Gershwin or Bohemian by Mercury (8)
- 12 Boiler back-up (9,6)
- 15 Tools needed to make a jumper (8,7)
- 18 Short-lived items (8)
- 20 God Save the Queen (6)
- 21 Black suit (5)
- 22 Rooftop apartment (9)

DOWN

- 2 Worker on the land (US spelling) (7)
- 3 Serious offence (5)
- 4/8 Last words (3,3)
- 5 Chestnut confectionary (6,5)
- 7 Shapes in flour and water (5)
- 8 See 4
- 9 Old iron club (6)
- 13 Black eye (6)
- 14 As Samson in Gaza (7)
- 16 Footsteps (5)
- 17 The same (5)
- 19/20 Movement led by Andy Warhol (3,3)

PREFIXES QUIZ PART 1

For each line, find a word which, when used as a prefix for each given word, makes a new well-known word or phrase; eg. the words drop, house, rain, test, can each be prefixed by acid. The 12 correct prefixes each start with a different letter in the range A-L.

- 1 bird, damp, fly, guard
- 2 child, life, match, song
- 3 change, face, lock, view
- 4 crash, house, leg, post
- 5 glow, life, care, thought
- 6 action, debit, current, injection
- 7 boot, frost, pot, sprat
- 8 cock, park, point, room
- 9 cobra, cup, pin, maker
- 10 drive, gang, letter, smoke
- 11 bird, guard, help, sick
- 12 chair, meat, game, money

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 37



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ADOPTING A DOG FROM ABROAD

During the first lockdown in 2020 my black Labrador was a lifeline. Every day we would walk, greet people, exchange pleasantries and I would feel part of the world. Sadly, Fozzy died of cancer in January 2021. I had not realised the depth of feeling I had developed for that scatty food-obsessed dog. After a few weeks I started browsing Labrador rescue sites but no UK rescue centres had any dogs. However, I soon found dog sanctuaries in Greece, Spain, Romania and Cyprus, to name a few. Dogs there are not valued as highly as in the UK. Street dogs are regularly expunged from towns and cities, so they are rescued from kill stations or municipal pounds.

So began my search. In early April, I viewed, on social media, a lab cross in Cyprus. I immediately expressed an interest, filled out an application form and crossed my fingers. Later that week I was lucky enough to have a Zoom meeting with the couple running the sanctuary. Stringent Covid measures were in place then and there were no home visits. This was concerning for them so I had to walk round the garden with the phone showing them the 6-foot fence and enclosed garden. After a few days we had passed! Siggys was ours! Now to arrange transport ... the normal route was a flight from Cyprus to Belgium, then a courier from Belgium to the UK. However due to the measures in place, this was not possible. The dogs would fly into Heathrow and then a courier would deliver them to various service stations around the UK. We took receipt of our dog in the early hours of 7th May at the Welcome Break Services, Birchanger.



Now we owned a dog that had never lived in a house, nor been fed regularly and rarely had a comfortable bed! There were standard problems that all rescue dogs present with. However, with a street dog, there are some distressing and also very comical problems! In August I went to pick the gooseberries to make a crumble. Not one gooseberry remained! When we turned on the television on that first day, she visibly jumped! She loves to eat dog poo and she is difficult to train, as any change in my tone of voice will distress her and send her into submissive mode. We have established *sit* and *wait*, but on her terms. I have nicknamed her *the bolter* as there is little recall. She values freedom over me. She is a work in progress. Rescuers say it takes three months for a dog to feel at ease, but I feel it is much longer. We continue our journey and I wonder if I will make a gooseberry crumble this summer?

Vivienne Dunbar
Tel: 814556

LIFE AFTER COP 26

Last year COP26 was important because it was regarded as our last chance to make the goals to limit global warming below two degrees. We needed leaders attending COP26 to come up with brave plans if we have any hope of halving greenhouse gas emissions before 2030. They made some progress and irrespective of media coverage, if nothing else, it made Climate Change a top news item for a few weeks and raised awareness. Outcomes and agreements rely on politicians and companies to follow through. We need to have hope that we can fix this, because if we lack hope then we have already lost the fight. Here is a quote from @newscientist written by Katharine Hayhoe that resonated with me and may resonate with you:

The world begins to change when individuals decide it can, and it should - and when we use our voices to call for action, where we live, where we work, where we put our money and where we vote.

What you can do to help the planet:

- Save water; do not let taps run unnecessarily and put all your washes on eco settings
- Do not buy excessively, be it food, clothes, electronics. Always ask yourself 'do I really need this?'
- Switch off electrical appliances when not needed
- Turn down your heating
- Be kind to nature; add bee and butterfly friendly plants to your gardens and give nature a home
- Do not be a litter bug; there is too much litter in the parks. Take your rubbish home with you and keep our environment clean and tidy
- Re-use, re-cycle and be creative in how you re-utilise things.

All of the ideas above save the planet and some even save you money!

Annie Taylor

You can contact Annie though her mum Claire on 07941 459170. Ed.

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WINTER BIRD WATCHING IN HATFIELD FOREST

Some winter days in the Forest have been cold and frosty and the southeastern end of the lake has remained frozen until the sun rises through the trees, then the ice has gradually melted and the sky becomes a brilliant blue. The ducks fly in and you can imagine their surprise as instead of landing with a splash in the water they skid to a halt over the ice. The black headed gulls in their winter plumage are abundant and the Canada geese have increased in number, up to 60 plus at one count with a solitary greylag goose in their midst.



We have begun to identify the jackdaws who are always hovering around the picnic tables waiting for crumbs. There is a one-legged one who hops and flies close to the Shell House and two partly albino with white flecks and spots on their bodies. The five swans are still present and swim across the lake from one bank to the other in a stately line. Now that the scrub has been cleared close to one of the smaller ponds it has opened up opportunities for different birds to forage including a mistle thrush happily pecking away on the rotting bark. Cormorants can still be seen perching majestically on the top of the tree nearby. We would recommend a visit whatever the weather; there are always different bird species to spot and the café is a great place for refreshment.

Margaret Webb
Keane Webb

(Apologies to Margaret and Keane; the February Link included a photo from the RSPB in their article instead of the wintry one of Hatfield Forest which they submitted. Ed)

LADIES KEEP FIT

Ladies over 50 Keep Fit Group

In Stansted there are twice weekly one-hour classes for ladies in this age group. Classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.25pm-3.25pm in the Stansted Free Church Hall, behind the church on Chapel Hill. Most of our exercises are done on chairs, spaced, sanitised and covered with our own towels. The cost is £20-£25 per calendar month. For more information please contact me.



Brenda Ryan
Tel: 812725

STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



We are delighted to announce that Messy Church will return on **Sunday 20th March** at 3.30pm in St John's Church Hall, following a four-month break due to the pandemic. Each Messy Church is based around a theme and is specifically designed to be inclusive and interactive for all ages, although typically appeals to families with children and to those who might not normally attend church. After a warm welcome, people choose from a variety of craft activities suited to different age groups. There is then a 15-minute celebration which includes lively music, stories or drama related to the theme. After the celebration we all enjoy some food together. There is no charge and no offering is taken; all the funding is provided by the churches who help to run it. There is no need to book, just turn up on the day; however, to help with catering it would be helpful if you could let me know in advance if you are planning to come.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: messychurch@stanstedchurches.com



ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

Would you like to increase your social circle? Well, singing in a group such as a choir can quickly help forge social bonds. Do you worry about getting stale? Well, singing not only exercises the brain, it also helps improve posture, muscle tension and breathing. Singing, whether alone or in a group, has shown to improve our sense of well-being and happiness; learning new songs is cognitively stimulating and can help the memory, so it is a win, win! So why not give our choir a go? You will make new friends, feel uplifted with a sense of achievement and have some fun too. Oh, and we also always have chocolates! So hey, why not try something new? Come and join us on the first and third Tuesday of every month 7.00pm-8.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall, attached to the school. There are no auditions at our choir, all you have to do is just turn up and sing. There is always a warm welcome on your arrival, whether with friends or on your own, and everyone has a place in our choir. Please feel free to contact us on our Elsenham Community Choir Facebook page. We look forward to welcoming you.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07962 586825
Email: elaine.terry2011@btinternet.com



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LET'S TALK, STANSTED!

www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

We continue to provide mental health training and support in the Stansted area; details are on our website. We encourage residents and businesses to undertake training and we are currently organising a four-week **Mental Health First Aiders** course in March, so if you would like to participate in this valuable programme please visit our website or contact me.

Back Care Yoga free 6-week course

Most of us will at some point experience back pain, but with some TLC it soon goes. This course will give you the information and tools to improve the condition of your own back, reduce pain and discomfort and improve your overall quality of life. Last minute spaces might be available so please contact me if you are interested.

Our other community groups

The Veg Shed activity group for men.

Muddy Walkers weekly walking group open to everyone.

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

Richard Haywood

Tel: 07794 268208

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org



Let's Talk, Stansted! Men's Shed

This is now fully open at the Elms Farm Allotments and meets every Sunday from 10.00am. We promote social inclusion for all men and provide an opportunity for friendship, social engagement and skill-sharing in a safe and enjoyable environment. The Shed's primary focus is on growing fruit and vegetables, and garden care in general. This will include:

1. Maintaining allotment plot
2. Cultivating a range of edible crops throughout the year for personal consumption
3. Donation of excess crops to local food banks and charitable activities
4. Learning about growing food, maintaining garden spaces, and keeping healthy outdoors.

In addition, the intention is to coordinate activities with other local community projects such as the Human Roots community and existing Men's Sheds in Bishops Stortford, Braintree and beyond. Whatever your level of knowledge about gardening, if you would like to get involved, please contact me. All men are welcome.

Richard Haywood

Tel: 07794 268208



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

It has certainly been blustery here at St Mary's Church with hard frosts too; but despite all of that the snowdrops are peeping out with more still to come, and quite remarkably the St Mary's rose bush is still flowering and smells delightful! All these things make me happy.



I am even happier to report that recently the bells rang for the first time since Covid times. How wonderful to hear them after so long. Hopefully they will continue to be rung on the third Saturday of the month. Why not put a date in your diary to come and listen, and perhaps go into church to sign in the visitor's book. Signatures in our book are so very important to us since footfall helps with much needed funding which helps to keep the church open for you all to visit and enjoy its beauty. The church is open daily 11.00am-3.00pm and tours are available on request; just give me a call and I will gladly help.



Lynda Dale

Tel: 07716 099474

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the January draw:

£100	No 116	Edmund Wilkinson
£ 50	No 252	Valerie Reavell
£ 25	No 231	Eirwen Butcher

The draw for March will be held on **27th March** 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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This time of year, with the first signs of spring appearing, Covid finally starting to release its grip and the hope of warmer summer days to come, there is hope in the air. Hope is a powerful thing. Without hope we are adrift. What should we put our hope in? In spring's appearance, or Covid's demise? Maybe in people (church, friends, and family), in position or career, in financial stability, or health? As we age, we come to see that all these things - no matter how special - are temporary. Winter will come again, people will move on, careers come to an end, money is finite and our strength and health ultimately fade. Hoping in these things is like trying to grasp sand. Nothing lasts forever ... except maybe one thing.

We read in Psalm 90 *"Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God."* Christians have a hope in the living God, who was and is, and is to come. When our hope is focused on Him then it need never waiver or fade. In Romans 15:13 we read the apostle Paul's prayer for the church in Rome: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

I don't know about you, but I want to know this 'God of hope', to experience 'all joy and peace' and I want to overflow with the hope that comes by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Whether you are a Christian or not, if you are looking for more hope in your life, why not join me and pray this prayer for yourself today?



Howard Page
Family Church



www.stanstedfamilychurch.co.uk

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

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

Given the continuing uncertainty around Covid, if you would like to attend any of our meetings for the first time, you will be very welcome, but please contact us to find out whether meetings are in-person or online. This includes Tuesday evenings and Sundays (friendly and informal meetings with a combination of modern worship music, Bible-based talk/discussion and prayer), The Alpha Course (Monday afternoons) and Investigators (age 7-11, Friday evenings). Regular members receive updates on any changes by email.

We are also happy to receive prayer-requests from anyone, and regularly see answered prayers. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith and a vision to benefit our community, why not get in touch?



Ros and Howard Page

CATHOLIC

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www.sttheresastansted.org

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

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

Masses

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

Following the removal of restrictions by HM Government we are now operating as normal. Details of the current guidance issued by the Bishops of England and Wales is available to view on our website. Thank you.

Clair Rava
Parish Administrator
Tel: 816889

Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org





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

New Members

During a recent service, we were very pleased to welcome Sue Hitchmough and Topsy Brice into membership of our church. They both transferred their membership from churches they previously attended.

Collection for Afghanistan

Following news reports of the terrible situation faced by people living in Afghanistan, the church had a collection which raised the magnificent sum of £550. Some of the donations were from people coming to *The Place on the Hill*. A very big thank you to everyone who contributed.

Preachers for March

6th 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
13th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
20th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
27th 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
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Rector 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



St John's Registers Entries from the Registers will appear next month.

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT GROUPS

We are very pleased that this year the churches are able to meet together during Lent. The Lent Groups are on **Wednesdays 7.45pm-8.45pm** in the Free Church Hall, with coffee served from 7.30pm. There are four sessions: 23rd and 30th March, 6th and 13th April, each including an extract from the film *Jesus of Nazareth* starring Robert Powell, followed by discussion. Everyone is most welcome; no need to book, just come along. We look forward to seeing you.

David Morson
Tel: 850209

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 every Sunday at 10.30am for an hour, followed by coffee and chat. Quakers allow each person to explore their own experience of God. While founded upon Christianity, we embrace a wide breadth of beliefs, with a dedication to peace, simplicity, truth, equality and care for nature, which we try to live out in everyday life. The Quaker way is a spiritual path for our time, a path that is simple, radical and contemporary. If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Jane. You can find out more about Quakers at www.quakerquest.org.

A **Light Group** session is held on the second Saturday of each month 10.30am-noon at the Meeting House. This Quaker spiritual practice is a guided meditation on ourselves and the world. All are welcome and you do not have to be a Quaker. Please contact me for more information. The Quaker Hall is available for hire; see contact details above.

Sue Moloney
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Volunteering Opportunities

It is easy to feel disconnected from your community, as you juggle work, family and jobs around the house. One of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to get to know your neighbours is through volunteering for community service projects. Just a small amount of your time can make a big difference to an organisation or person that needs your help. Uttlesford Citizens Advice have a team of more than 60 volunteers who support the charity in many ways, from giving information and advice to clients to helping with fundraising, administration, and social media campaigns. Our brilliant board of trustees are also volunteers, responsible for setting the direction of the charity and ensuring we stay solvent. We are always happy to hear from anyone who would like to join us. Our volunteer roles are varied, challenging and rewarding; hours are flexible so fit well with family or other existing commitments. We currently have vacancies for volunteers to join us in the following roles:

- **Disability Benefits Team** - specialist volunteers who support clients to complete complex application forms. Full training and supervision given
- **Community Volunteers** - help us raise awareness of the varied support and advice we offer in your village, parish or ward; keep leaflets well stocked in your local community settings
- **Treasurer** - help ensure our charity is sustainable and continues to meet the needs of the community.

For more details of these and other opportunities, do please contact me. We are at Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB.

Jo Hancock

Tel: 012799 618840

Email: jo.hancock@uttlesfordca.org.uk

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www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Rising Inflation hits low-income Households

Increased energy costs, rising inflation and the removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift means that many households are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet, and typically, those on the lowest incomes are being hit the hardest. Frontline advisers at Uttlesford Citizens Advice (UCA) are already supporting increasing numbers of people who cannot afford rent, food or heating. Jack Monroe, a food writer and activist known for campaigning on poverty issues, tweeted that the use of the consumer price index and retail price index to measure rising household bills 'grossly underestimates the true cost-of-living crisis'. Data she has collected show that the price of the cheapest bag of pasta in Asda has risen by 141% and the cheapest rice by 344% in the last year alone. "A few years ago," she writes, "there were more than 400 products in the 'Smart Price' range; today there are 87 and counting down".

Over the last two years, we have seen a steep rise in the number of people who have come to us for advice relating to budgeting or help to pay essential bills. If you are struggling, please remember you are not alone. Our advisers can help by making sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to and working with you to maximise your income; they can also help you access other support, including emergency financial support, if needed. To make a donation to UCA, or to find advice and information, go to our website or contact us.

Uttlesford Citizens Advice

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

A CLEANER STANSTED THANKS TO ELSIE-MAY

I responded to a message on Facebook asking for someone to help a young lady with the volunteering section of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. I litter pick as often as I can with my son Oliver and felt I could help support this girl with her request. I met Elsie-May Jennings in October and she started litter picking with me once a week. I feel young people should get more support from others in the village to help them succeed in life. Elsie-May is a very polite and caring young lady and I was very impressed with her commitment, enthusiasm, and timekeeping. She should be praised for her work, and it was a pleasure to litter pick alongside her. Her communication and listening skills were fantastic and she worked very hard and longer than needed most weeks. Between us we managed to collect 30 sacks of rubbish in three months.



I was pleased to hear Elsie-May say that she would carry on litter picking after she has finished her Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are all very disappointed having to pick up litter in the same places week after week. It is a shame that not everyone has the same respect for our lovely village. We know there are full-time people as well as a litter picking group who put in so much effort to keep our village clean. I thank them and 13-year-old Elsie-May for all their hard work and I wish her all the best for the future.

Helen Presland



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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Meeting Agenda

Ruth Clifford

Clerk to Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council



This year will be the first opportunity in two years to hold our Annual Parish Meeting - this event being just one of the things the pandemic has managed to disrupt of the usual routine of parish council life.

Meetings such as this offer a fantastic opportunity for the community and Councillors to come together in a public setting. You are free to discuss the issues that matter most to you, unencumbered by the trappings of modern technology that everyone has had to embrace during the Covid Crisis to overcome the constraints on in-person get-togethers.

The Day Centre at 72 Chapel Hill will be the venue for this year's meeting, which will be held on March 16 at 7.30pm. The venue affords plenty of space for residents to attend. You will be able to meet our Councillors and ask questions directly to the chamber. You can read the agenda opposite but are free to raise any matters that you feel need to be aired.

We look forward to seeing you there.

AGENDA ITEMS

- ① To receive apologies for absence
- ② To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019
- ③ To receive the Parish Council's audited accounts to 31 March 2021
- ④ Financial Report
- ⑤ Chairman's Report
- ⑥ To welcome Peter Holt, Chief Executive at Uttlesford District Council
- ⑦ To welcome representatives from Essex Police (subject to availability)
- ⑧ To welcome representatives from TouchPoint
- ⑨ Proposed resolutions
- ⑩ Open Forum

NOTE our audited accounts and Auditor's Report are available on our website: www.stansted.net/AboutUs/Finances





ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Annual Report

Cllr Maureen Caton

Chairman of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council



TOUCHPOINT

We have agreed a Licence to Occupy for the Day Centre with TouchPoint for a period of six months initially, with a review at that point, and will also consider a lease agreement for both Crafton Green House and the Day Centre.

We have also joined forces to agree work to be undertaken to make both buildings health and safety compliant and upgrade the kitchen and ventilation system in the Day Centre, with both parties continuing to apply for grant funding for the capital sums for the required work on the buildings.

The services and activities provided by TouchPoint to date have proved an invaluable asset to our community helping promote its health and wellbeing.



NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Our draft plan has been publicised to households in the community, and consultation on each chapter took place on village social media pages. Comments received, as appropriate, have been incorporated into the document.

We have also considered the sites located in, and significant to, the position of Stansted as outlined in the Uttlesford Call for Sites. We await the decision by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) on how many sites will be required to be delivered in our Parish as a result of an agreed Local Plan.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will be ready for consideration by UDC in the Spring, possibly in early April. UDC may then decide to pause the adoption, or not, of the NDP until their own Local Plan has been adopted – as the two plans are expected to be aligned.

We should also note at this juncture that the Bentfield/Pennington Lane appeal application by Bloor Homes was refused as a result of community pressure and we congratulate all who worked to secure this area of open countryside.

PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Reeve Road play equipment has been reinstalled to the specifications agreed with Uttlesford District Council.

The installation of a Zip-wire is the first phase of our improvements that we have agreed for Mountfitchet Green. The next phase will see the Parish Council investing in picnic benches, and a swing suitable for those with accessibility needs in this much used public space. A trim trail is also planned for Wilkins Crescent on Foresthall Park.

Our Projects Officer has secured Community Initiative Funding to enable the provision of the Mountfitchet equipment. Money from the Foresthall Park Community Fund, meanwhile, will contribute to the expenditure on the Foresthall equipment, along with the Parish Council budgeted funding.



CEMETERY

We continue our search for land for future burial use.

REFORESTATION

Newman's Plantation is the first phase of tree planting/reforestation in the village. We hope to continue this initiative once Elms Farm Public Open Space is handed over to the Parish Council.

LAND NORTH OF STANSTED AIRPORT

We have had discussions in respect of the impact of this development on our community and discussed how this could be mitigated if the application is approved. We have advocated for various community benefits – one of which is the provision of youth football pitches that are accessible and should be managed via a community interest group. This continues to require ongoing discussion with Columbia Threadneedle, the applicants, and community stakeholder groups.

LAND AT FORESTHALL PARK

We have also discussed with UDC and Columbia Threadneedle the possibility of support to purchase the land adjacent to St Mary's School to provide nursery/pre-school provision. There has been no further feedback on this to date. We have endeavoured to engage with Taylor Wimpey to secure this land for community use and will continue to attempt to progress this.

PHARMACY

We are still working to promote the need for a second licensed dispensing pharmacy in the south of Stansted. In January the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment public consultation was successfully extended for a week after Parish Council intervention. We have also lobbied our MP, Kemi Badenoch, who is fully prepared to support our stance and will submit her written support at the statutory consultation stage. We are also actively working with the Uttlesford Health and Wellbeing Board to promote this need, and they are progressing discussions on our behalf.

FULLER'S ALMSHOUSES

We continue to work with Legacy East Almshouse Partnership to promote the re-provision of the Almshouses for the benefit of our Stansted community.



There may be some opportunities for co-operation from the Uttlesford Call for Sites responses, and LEAP are aware of these.

FLOODING

The Flood Working Group is preparing to present a plan to ease the stalemate between the Environment Agency and local landowners and to provide an agree-

ment to enable natural flood management measures to be installed that will prevent or at least minimise our future flood risk.

GROVE HILL, CHURCH ROAD

The plan to remove HGV access to the village via a weight limit restriction - unless they are specifically delivering – will have a positive impact on both these highways, and others. Under this scheme, which is subject to further consultation with residents, surveillance equipment will track vehicles at each entry point to the village. This is the first step to possible further consideration of pedestrian-only access on Lower Street.



YOUTH COUNCIL

The current group is small, but very positive and is actively seeking further membership to promote ideas and outcomes for the village's younger residents. The Youth Councillors are hoping to meet with our MP this year for a trip around the House of Commons. Now that meetings of the Full Council are reinstated as face-to-face events, the group will be able to attend and observe the deliberations, and latterly contribute and promote their agenda items.



A special thank you to our staff Lucy, Laila, Levi, Dan, Ruth, Emma & Lee for their support for members and our community, as well as their conscientious and stoic approach during the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.





ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Financial Report

Cllr John O'Brien

Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

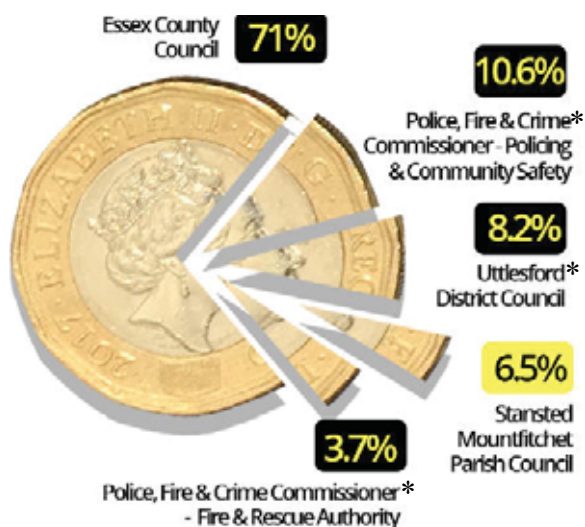


By October this year it was evident the combined consequences of Brexit and the continued Covid pandemic were having an inflationary effect on the UK economy.

Inflation in December hit 5.4%. It's since been forecast to rise to 6% by April. Against this background, the Parish Council has kept to its budget but, looking ahead, it has wrestled with how best to maintain community services without a significant Precept rise.

In particular, the Finance and General Purposes Committee was faced when setting the budget with taking note of warnings of sky-high rises in energy costs and how that will impact on people's pocket, while striving to preserve community services.

One such service is the **Cemetery**, which is fast reaching capacity. The Parish Council is seeking extra land to expand this facility. But once found, a costly certification process of that land's suitability is required, in addition to its purchase price. Expanding capacity could cost up to £40,000. The committee recommended raising £10,000 for the next 4 years to cover this amount.



The make up of residents' council tax bills as percentage share for each local authority and emergency service. *Based on figures for 2021/22

The arrival of **TouchPoint Stansted**, has been welcomed by the Parish Council, especially after Uttlesford's withdrawal from supporting day centres in the district. We see the charity as a great opportunity in 'adding value' to community services, as well as continuing a low-cost meal offering to all residents. That's why we are investing in improvements to our buildings to support their service provision.

In line with the Council's policy, members were asked to consider a 2% increase in the **Precept**. It was agreed a 0% increase was unsustainable as it could result in service cuts or deplete our Free Reserves, now deemed at an acceptable level by auditors. The Parish Council was asked to consider a Precept rise of between 2% and 4.2%, plus £10,000 for cemetery expansion.

After discussion, the Parish Council opted for a 2% increase plus the additional charge for cemetery expansion. That took the total increase to 4.48% for 2022/23. Our precept will rise from £414,932 to £433,231. For a Band-D Council Tax household the annual precept will cost £127.88, or a rise of £5.48 for the year, or 11p/week.

Unspent funds in the current year, eg. for the **Firework display and for the Christmas lights**, will be transferred into earmarked reserves and spent on the same projects in 2022/23. Other funds raised for 2021-2022, namely for work associated with last year's Tree Survey and funding play equipment for the over-11s, have progressed well. Unsafe and diseased trees have been felled, and new trees planted within Newman's Plantation. Grants have been obtained by our Projects Officer to pay for play equipment at Mountfitchet Green. This is scheduled for a March installation.

Annual Parish Council Grants: Applications were received from five organisations and dispersed as follows: Uttlesford CAB £1,000; Uttlesford Community Travel - £1,000; Let's Talk Stansted - £950; Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC - £250; Stansted CC - £250

Someone Like You: The Adele Songbook

This is a stunning live concert performance, celebrating the music of one of our generation's finest singer-songwriters. Friday 4th March 7.30pm, £22

Mary Rose

In this hauntingly beautiful and witty play, from the creator of Peter Pan, comes an exploration of time, love, loss and hope. Thursday 10th March 7.30pm, £19.50 and £17.50



Best of Queen

Get ready to Break Free with the UK's biggest Queen Tribute band *Majesty*, in a brand-new show, *The Break Free Tour*. Saturday 12th March 7.30pm, £25



Revenge

Written by Robin Hawdon, directed by Louise Jameson (*EastEnders*, *Doc Martin*, *Doctor Who*, *Bergerac*) *Revenge* is 'A taut thriller full of twists and turns!' The Stage Thursday 31st March 7.30pm, £19.50 and £17.50

For tickets, please visit our website or call 710200.

Hazel Hawkins
Digital Media and Design Coordinator

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI

Our January Meeting was in the Day Centre; over 30 members and visitors met to enjoy an evening of games, a ploughman's supper, a quiz and lots of chat. Our booked speakers, the musical group *Three's Company*, were unable to come; we hope they will be able to do so in the future. The National Federation of Women's Institutes will be holding our Annual Conference this year at the Liverpool Arena; last year it was online. The WI are holding a great many varied classes online now, especially since our wonderful Denman College is no longer operating. This of course came about because of Covid when it was impossible for people to mix. The building will be sold eventually but it is possible to do classes at home and I think this will continue. This is not the same as meeting members from all over the country and sharing news of our institutes. At the last count, the WI had about 6,300 institutes in this country and that represents a lot of women!

At our March meeting we will be having a talk by Chris Truran entitled *DABS and DNA*, which sounds intriguing. Visitors are welcome, so do come along to the Day Centre on Thursday 10th at 7.15pm for 7.30 pm if you want to know more.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The programme for 2022 got off to a flying start when Tim Turner of Sworders came to talk to us. His subject was the history of the auction house which has been part of our local heritage since 1782. In the space of just 45 minutes, which flew by, he told us of its origins in a former coffee shop in North Street Bishop's Stortford when the population of Stortford was just 1350. Originally auctioneers of cattle and agricultural land they held regular sales in the old cattle market, which was illustrated with nostalgic photos. Sworders added country house and property sales to their area of expertise early in the 20th century; to demonstrate this Tim brought in some wonderful posters advertising the sale of Windhill House and the Chantry. The posters are collector's items in themselves! Tim explained that modern art sales now account for 90% of their business and of course they do have a web-based presence too. A very entertaining afternoon was rounded off with a lively question and answer session.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 16th March 2.15pm** in Ugley Village Hall and will be members day, when the subject will be *The Livery Companies of London*. Why not come along? We would be delighted to see you!

Andrea Fitt
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A general catch all way of tensing the shoulders is to round them, draw them together, and pull them upwards and then, if it does NOT make you dizzy, look upwards, giving all a squeezing. This will feel quite nasty. Then **calmly** let the shoulders return to normal and look forwards again. To stretch them, slightly roll the shoulders back and down, broadening the bottom of the shoulder blades and squeezing down into the armpits whilst slightly tucking your chin down. If you really cannot sleep at night, it is worth hopping out of bed and trying this out. Calmer shoulders mean the wildebeest is grazing and it is safe to sleep again. Insomnia can be caused by any very mild pain in the body: a little tummy ache, a bit of a stiff calf and so on. It is the brain's way of waking us up to give us a message that all is not well.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



STANSTED LIBRARY

www.libraries.essex.gov.uk

Our Baby and Toddler rhyme times are becoming ever more popular. We run them on Tuesdays at 10.30am and Thursdays at 2.15pm. We highly recommend booking now as spaces fill up quickly. Email us to reserve your place or come into the library and speak to a member of staff.

World Book Day takes place on Thursday 3rd March so if you are not currently a library user and feel as if this is the time to start reading again, maybe set yourself a target and pop along and browse our shelves. You can sign up for a library account on-line at the Essex website or visit the library and sign up in person. We have an interesting selection of non-fiction, biography and mental health books to inspire and encourage as well as crime, general fiction and adventure, to name just a few genres. Once you are a member you can use any library across Essex to borrow and return books. Dunmow library runs a variety of activities including Baby and Toddler rhyme times on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9.45am. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Susannah Freeman
Deputy Library Supervisor
Tel: 0345 603 7628
Email: Stansted.library@essex.gov.uk



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

After 23 months of cancellations, it was a real pleasure to greet members and friends, old and new, at our first meeting, when we heard about *Great Gardens of Great Britain* by Andrew Babicz. His love of horticulture came from working alongside his father in the grounds of the 'big house' as he was not allowed in the kitchen where his mother worked! After school he started as an apprentice gardener at Inverewe Garden for the Scottish National Trust and then went onto study at RHS Wisley and at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. He has also worked at Kew and Hampton Court as well as for several London Boroughs. His other hobby is photography; members were given a photographic tour of gardens from Scotland to Sussex and Cumbria to East Anglia; from grand houses to municipal parks, and the gardens' special features were explained. As every garden is different, members were advised to take a notebook and lots of photos when visiting open gardens to help them plan their own gardens, get ideas on colour or planting schemes and to list what plants to add to their wish list.

Important notice regarding the March meeting

The next meeting on **Wednesday 2nd March** 7.40pm for 8.00pm will be held at the Free Church Hall, behind the Church on Chapel Hill. Parking is limited; the closest car park is at Castle Maltings. The Club will be welcoming Brenda Eysers, a flower arranger, who will be demonstrating *Small Designs*. The flower arrangements will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. Entry is £3.00. If you feel happier wearing a face covering, please remember to bring it with you. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone to our next meeting.



Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

LOCAL BUS TIMETABLE

Northwards 301

Service No	301	301	301	301	301	301	301	301	301	301
Bishop's Stortford, Interchange	--	738	855	955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1620	1820
Bishop's Stortford, Riverside	--	740	857	957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1622	1822
Stansted Mountfitchet, Clarence Road	--	750	907	1007	1107	1207	1307	1407	1632	1832
Saffron Walden, High Street	--	825	942	1042	1142	1242	1342	1442	1707	1907

Southwards

Saffron Walden, High Street	719	904	1004	1104	1204	1304	1530	1730	1830	1926
Stansted Mountfitchet, Clarence Road	750	937	1037	1137	1237	1337	1603	1804	1904	1957
Bishop's Stortford, Interchange	802	949	1049	1149	1249	1349	1615	1818	1918	2008

Northwards 7/7A

	7	7	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7
Bishop's Stortford, Interchange	06:00	06:39	08:15	09:00	10:30	11:30	12:45	13:30	15:00	15:50	17:15	18:15	19:30				
Bishop's Stortford, Herts & Essex Hospita	06:08	06:51	08:27	09:12	10:38	11:38	12:53	13:38	15:12	16:02	17:27	18:23	19:38				
Dunmow Road, Nags Head	06:10	06:53	08:29	09:14	10:40	11:40	12:55	13:40	15:14	16:04	17:29	18:25	19:40				
Birchanger, Bradley Common	06:16	06:59	08:35	09:20	10:46	11:46	13:01	13:46	15:20	16:10	17:35	18:31	19:46				
Bentfield Green, Bentfield Road				09:24		11:50		13:50		16:14		18:35					
Stansted Mountfitchet, Croasdaile Road				09:26		11:52		13:52		16:16		18:37					
Stansted Mountfitchet, Opp. Bell & Feathers				09:28		11:54		13:54		16:18		18:39					

Southwards

	7	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7	7a	7
Stansted Mountfitchet, Chapel Hill	07:42	07:58	09:24	09:55	10:55	12:10	13:20	14:25	15:15	16:40	17:40	18:55						
Bentfield Green, Bentfield Road			09:27		10:58		13:23		15:18		17:43							
Stansted Mountfitchet, Croasdaile Road			09:29		11:00		13:25		15:20		17:45							
Stansted Mountfitchet, Opp. Bell & Feathers			09:31		11:02		13:27		15:22		17:47							
Birchanger, Bradley Common	07:48	08:04	09:34	10:01	11:05	12:16	13:30	14:31	15:25	16:46	17:50	19:01						
Shortcroft (adj), Dunmow Road		08:20																
Dunmow Road, Nags head	07:53		09:39	10:06	11:10	12:21	13:35	14:36	15:30	16:51	17:55	19:06						
Bishop's Stortford, Herts & Essex Hospita	07:55		09:41	10:08	11:12	12:23	13:37	14:38	15:32	16:53	17:57	19:08						
Bishop's Stortford, Interchange	08:03		09:53	10:16	11:20	12:31	13:45	14:46	15:40	17:05	18:09	19:16						

One of our readers got in touch with me to say that she could not read the bus timetable in the February Link. So here is a larger version; hopefully this will be easier to read. This revised timetable has cut some services due to staff shortages; there is no news as to when these services might be reinstated. Ed.

STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 1st March 8.00pm** in The Dog and Duck in Lower Street where we will be discussing *Road Ends* by Mary Lawson. Set in the years 1966-1969, this tender and surprising story of a dysfunctional family moves between the frozen landscapes of a northern Ontario logging town and London in the swinging 60s. It sounds like it will be a good read. We are always pleased to welcome new members so please do get in touch if you would like to join us.



Anne Watson
Tel: 898693

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

RECYCLE STAMPS, INK AND DENTAL PRODUCTS



A big thank you to everyone who saved their Christmas stamps; I now have a very large quantity to pass on, which will raise money for charity. We are still collecting stamps along with original (not remanufactured or own brand) ink cartridges, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag). Please leave items in the boxes outside the blue main door of the church. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. **Please note that we do not take laser toner cartridges.** Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

My birdwatching report in the March 2012 Link read as follows: *Having stocked up the bird table and filled the birdbath with fresh water, I settled down with a copious supply of coffee, to take part in the annual RSPB Birdwatch. At the end of the hour my large piece of paper contained just three entries: one blackbird, one magpie (crossed out as it was perched on the conifer in my neighbour's garden) and a stripy cat.* This year was no less disappointing. Still only three entries on my piece of paper: one blackbird, one sparrow and one starling. (At least all the entries were birds that were actually in my garden this year - and no cats!)



Each year I am filled with excitement as I sit down pen poised, expecting to see all my regular feathered visitors, and each year they fail to appear at the appointed hour. I wonder if they desert me because there are other bird tables and feeders around containing tastier treats than mine during Birdwatch weekend, so they choose to 'dine out'. Or do the birds know they are being watched and counted, so decide to stay in their rooms like moody teenagers?

Of course, on the following morning all my usuals were back, the gang of squabbling starlings who descend as soon as the food is put out, the two or three fat pigeons who bravely wade in amongst the starlings and grab more than their fair share, and finally the robin who always appears when the rest have gone, picking up scraps scattered on the grass by the greedy pigeons.

Days before the Birdwatch weekend I spotted a rare sight - a trio of robins hopping around together in the garden; we sometimes get two robins but I have never seen more than that before. The day before we also had a group of long tailed tits at the bird table, which was a first. They only stayed for a quick snack but it was lovely to see them. Why does nothing as interesting as that happen when I am recording bird activity to pass onto the RSPB? I will have another go next year, but plan to up my game in the food department, and learning from previous years' experiences, I will have a much smaller piece of paper.



Loki

Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

HELEN ROLLASON RURAL RAMBLE

www.helenrollason.org.uk

Join our Rural Ramble at The Gardens of Easton Lodge on **Saturday 30th April** 10.00am-4.00pm. There are three distance options for participants to choose from; 10 miles, four miles and a one-mile family trail. A delicious cream tea is included with each ticket, and dogs on leads are welcome. Situated a few minutes outside the historic market town of Great Dunmow, this is a unique opportunity to enjoy a beautiful walk around the surrounding scenic countryside and the Gardens.

Angus Drever, Chair of Trustees at the Gardens of Easton Lodge Preservation Trust, said: *"We are delighted that the Gardens are to be the focal point of the Helen Rollason Rural Ramble and are looking forward to welcoming them and their guests back. We hope that this event will encourage even more people to come to find out more about these fascinating Gardens. Their history spans from the mid-1590s, through the Edwardian era and Second World War, right up to the current time."*



Helen Rollason Cancer Charity Community Fundraiser Karen Mitchell added; *"We are really looking forward to returning to The Gardens of Easton Lodge; it will be wonderful to see families, groups of friends, children and dogs back again. Walking has so many benefits including improved sleep, reduced stress and anxiety, lifting your mood and boosting your energy, plus walking in aid of charity really gives you that feel good factor. We would not be able to organise such an amazing event without the help of our great team of volunteers; we are keeping our fingers crossed for sunny skies and warm Spring weather."*

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STANSTED
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Birchanger Primary School New Outdoor Area

The school is always looking to improve their environment and although their nature garden has been a wonderful resource, over the years it has become very overgrown and is no longer a useable space. The school is voluntary controlled and currently has 110 pupils; we quickly identified the type of space that would be beneficial to them. We are hoping to build a natural environment with natural bark pathways, raised beds, soft borders with seasonal colour, and a seating arbour.



The original collaborative aims of the project are:

- Designed to attract a range of insects and animal life
- Children to be able to experience some of the flowers and trees common to our locality and our country
- Growing produce as the children aim to achieve Level 5 of the RHS schools gardening scheme. The produce grown will be used in school lunches and any surplus will be given away for a donation towards future planting
- Outdoor spaces are good for mental health and this garden will be a resource for any children experiencing episodes of anxiety.

To support the school in delivering the project aims, we have raised £4,430 from Uttlesford District Council Youth Initiatives Working Group grants (YIWG), Stansted Airport Passenger Community Fund, parish councillors Cllr Khan and Cllr Caton and Birchanger parish councillors. Ace of Spades are helping us clear the land and Stansted Airport's volunteer team and head engineers are helping build a bark pathway as well as other tasks. We are still looking for a team to help us on Saturday 5th March and again in late April. Tasks include: building raised beds, a seating arbour and planting soft borders. If you would like to get involved, please contact me for more details.



Keiran Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk

I do hope that 2022 has begun well for you all. We are determined to make this a successful year for the windmill and we would welcome more visitors to come and enjoy a tour of the mill. You are all very welcome to come along to our AGM on **Thursday 17th March 7.00pm for 7.30pm** in the Day Centre. Do come along and meet the committee and enjoy a glass of wine. We look forward to seeing you then. The windmill will commence opening for visitors at Easter Weekend, Sunday 17th April and Bank Holiday Monday 18th April. On Easter Monday there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children. We will be serving tea, coffee, cakes and squash. There will also be a raffle. Let us make Easter as successful as our Santa's Grotto event, when we were visited by 104 children, plus parents and grandparents.



Molly Clark
Co-Trustee
Tel: 816768



Lowest Passenger Numbers for Twenty-Three Years

Stansted Airport handled just 7.1 million passengers in 2021, the lowest number since 1998, reflecting the dramatic reduction in air travel caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic Stansted handled 28.1 million passengers. All UK airports have been affected to a similar extent as international air travel, for both business and leisure, has been decimated. Figures released by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that outbound and inbound tourism have declined by about 75% because of the pandemic. This decline in tourism has had an unexpected benefit for the UK economy, with a favourable impact on the balance of payments of £26 billion in 2020, and a similar figure expected in 2021. Much of this money, instead of being spent on overseas holidays in countries like Spain, Portugal and Greece, has been diverted to the UK economy and spent, for example, on home improvements and furnishings, as well as *staycations*.

Reduction in Business Travel could be Permanent

It is widely expected that overseas tourism will recover strongly as travel restrictions are eased but this may not be the case with business travel. The pandemic has shown companies that a great deal of business travel can easily be replaced by Zoom meetings. Business leaders also point out that reducing business flights helps protect employee health and wellbeing and improves productivity, as well as generating substantial savings in travel budgets. In addition, almost all major UK PLCs now have a commitment to help tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions, and one of the best ways to do this is to reduce business flights.

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BISHOP'S STORTFORD BEEKEEPING ASSOCIATION

www.stortfordbees.org.uk

Beginners' Course

Readers may remember that when I was Chairman of the Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association (BSBKA), I wrote a regular column for The Link. Since then, I have only written articles when there was something really important to report. The annual Beginners Course run by BSBKA is starting in the spring. At the end of the course the student will be capable of becoming a hobby beekeeper, knowing how to source bees, maintain a colony in a hive and extract their honey for sale, with the following skills and knowledge:

- Understanding the life cycle and role of each type of bee
- Being able to complete hive inspections competently
- Understanding the reasons for swarming and carry out preventative measures
- Knowing the different types of hive and understanding the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Being able to build a hive and frames
- Being able to identify common diseases and carry out solutions
- Being capable of extracting honey hygienically
- Being able to source a nucleus
- Knowing how to use the basic equipment.



This course will consist of five sessions on Tuesdays 8.00pm-10.00pm (coffee served from 7.30pm) in the Day Centre starting on **15th March** and at least one weekend practical live session at the Association apiary. The cost is £60, which includes a course textbook, refreshments and protective clothing, plus £5 to become an Associate member of Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association which entitles you to attend all the Association's events and meetings. Even if you do not intend to keep bees, you will have fun and enjoy learning about them. You could come as a husband-and-wife team and revive the fun of doing things together. Or bring your children; juniors are welcome and we only charge half the price. To find out more, email johnp@palombo.org.uk; John runs the course and will put you on the list to receive more details (without obligation), but hurry as places go very quickly.



John Dockerill
Ex-Chairman
Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers Association



STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Helping Herts helps deliver for Local Charities

The idea for Helping Herts emerged when Gordon Morrison, our President, realised that many local charities were losing desperately needed income at a time of greatest need. Covid-19 was not only ramping up the need for services but impeding the ability to raise necessary funds. The charity Helping Herts was set up in May 2021 by our Rotary Club to help keep delivering vital services.



On 17th January at the University of Hertfordshire Enterprise Hub, cheques for £118,104 and £63,672 were presented to Citizens Advice East Herts and a representative from Hertfordshire Hospices. Left to right in the picture are: Jim Tatchell (Stort Valley Rotary Club), Rosie Knowles (St Clare Hospice), Laura Hyde (Citizens Advice) and Gordon Morrison (President, Stort Valley Rotary Club). Money was raised via a combination of fun activities and events, including a walk the length of the boundary of Hertfordshire, a digital colouring book, corporate donations and direct donations.

Laura Hyde, Chief Executive at Citizens Advice East Herts said, "It has been great working with Helping Herts this year and we are very thankful to the Rotary Club for setting it up. This funding means that we can help more local people who may be struggling due to the pandemic, or with the increased cost of living." Gordon Morrison, founder of Helping Herts, said: "I am delighted that we have been able to raise these funds to enable Citizens Advice and Hertfordshire Hospices to continue their valuable work across the county." Helping Herts initially scheduled its campaign to run for one year, however due to its success, it will continue again in 2022, with a focus on supporting child welfare.



Peter Latham
Tel: 881607
Email: peterlathamz@outlook.com

With a rapidly growing membership and succession of well-supported activities our group has really prospered and thrived since restarting last December. In January we visited RSPB Rye Meads. This is a great local reserve which is always worth a visit particularly as it now has a superb new kingfisher hide. This was followed by a visit to the excellent RSPB Rainham Marshes in February.



For our March meeting we welcome Kevin Sawford, an award-winning wildlife photographer whose images are regularly featured in a variety of publications. He is presenting a photographic journey through the seasons around East Anglia illustrated with many of his images and some of the stories behind them. The meeting is on **Tuesday 8th March** at 7.30pm in Bishops Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford (near Tesco). All are welcome; entry is £3 for members of our local group, £5 for non-members.

During March we are staying close to home. On **Saturday 19th March**, Lee Jaques will be leading a walk which will include the old airport lagoons and part of Hatfield Forest, and end with refreshments; meet at 10.00am by The Coffee Shop, Thremhall Park, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7WE. Our March activities conclude on **Tuesday 29th March** with another of our short, sociable, local bird walks. A new and popular innovation, these are about three to four miles in length through countryside near Bishop's Stortford with a variety of habitats. Meet at Woodside Green, Great Hallingbury CM22 7UL at 10.00am and take a route through the Forest to the Shell House Café where refreshments are available.

Peter Allen
Tel: 07876 295456
Email: Peter2349@sky.com

Don't forget!

The clocks go forward
one hour at 1.00am on
Sunday 27th March



At our February meeting, we welcomed Alan Padgett who gave a talk about *The History of Bellringing*, including St Michael's Church Bishop's Stortford. He told us that English bellringing is unique, and guided us through the early origins of bellringing from its simplest form to the increased number of bells we know today. Using images and video clips, he showed us its origins from Campania in Italy to its spread through Europe to England from Saxon, Norman and medieval times. The earliest accounts of St Michael's can be traced back to 1433 using the old churchwardens' accounts. When Henry VIII created the Church of England, he banned all bell ringing in 1547 during church services. Bell ringing became almost wholly secular. Accounts show that St Michael's bellringers were paid for ringing the bells when Queen Elizabeth 1 visited Bishop's Stortford and when the Spanish Armada was defeated.

Bellringing became a sport for young gentleman who formed ringing societies. This created competitiveness and led to 'change ringing' with an increase in the number of bells in many churches; St Michael's was no exception with an increase to eight bells in the 18th century. The competitive edge led to poor standards of behaviour with large consumption of ale, as the water was not always safe to drink. The local constable in Bishop's Stortford was paid on one occasion to control the crowds in the Church yard. When the top of the medieval tower of St Michael's was rebuilt, the restriction on ale brought a response from the builders who left a message and complaint, still seen in the stonework to this day. The meeting was a thoroughly entertaining evening with a good attendance. At our next meeting on **Thursday 3rd March** 7.45pm for 8.00pm in the Day Centre, Jenny Oxley from Saffron Walden Museum will talk to us about *The Piano Hoard*.

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

AN AFTERNOON OUT

On 29th January, it was very blustery but dry and with a lovely bright sun. We set out, turning north but looking east over the Ugley Brook Valley. To the east, there were two red kites (see photo below) flopping loosely over the Ugley Brook and fields off High Lane. On reaching the roundabout, to the north on the Cambridge Road, there was a kestrel hovering.



We went south and returning several hours later to the roundabout on the Cambridge Road, there were two buzzards flying high over Ugley Brook and a gang of jackdaws shouting to one another. It seems they had as great an afternoon as we had.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Tel: 812259



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Natural England can designate any area of land considered to be of special interest by virtue of its fauna, flora or geological features as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This designation ensures that the area is appropriately managed and protected. The Hundred Parishes has more than twenty SSSIs. Here are some which can be visited:

In the parish of High Easter, **Garnett's Wood** comprises 25 hectares (62 acres) of ancient coppiced woodland (meaning the trees have been regularly cut down to ground level). Lime is the dominant tree in this wood. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, Henry II gave this wood to a knight called Geoffrey Garnet. A stump of a tree has been carved to depict the knight, still watching over his wood.



Patmore Heath in Albury parish is an eight-hectare grass heathland, now a scarce habitat in South East England. It is managed by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. A variety of native grasses grow here and the heath's ponds are home to all three native English newt species: great-crested, smooth and palmate.

Amwell Quarry, formerly an area of gravel pits, has been transformed into a 37-hectare wetland environment, important for wintering wildfowl and regarded as England's premier site for dragonflies.

Best-known and by far the largest of our SSSIs is **Hatfield Forest** which covers more than 400 hectares, around 1.5 square miles. It was a royal hunting forest from around 1100 AD until the 15th century.

It has never been ploughed and has been managed for centuries by coppicing and by pollarding (cutting trees to a height above which livestock and deer cannot reach the new shoots). It has been owned by The National Trust since 1924.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

We would like to encourage more people to join us, to reap the benefits which shared activities, knowledge and passions can bring. For those who are no longer in full-time work, the prospect of having time to make new friends, develop new interests and share experiences is an exciting one. We already offer a wide range of groups and we aim to increase the scope of these still further in this 40th year of the u3a movement. We also benefit from monthly talks and at the January meeting Brian Carline gave a warm and interesting, illustrated talk on Life in the 40s and 50s. The speaker in February was Tanya-Fern Smith who took us through the long history of Stansted Hall, from Tudor times, to being rebuilt as a Jacobean Hall and, following a fire, being rebuilt again in the 19th century.

At our next meeting on **Thursday 17th March 1.30pm** for 2.00pm, we will have the pleasure of a talk from Toni Neopard and Kate Broad who will take a light-hearted look at marriage and relationships in Victorian times: *For Better or Far Worse*. Joe Brooks showcased the Art House group in February and at the March meeting Patricia Powell will be highlighting the Card-Making group. Hopefully April will put a spring in your step, and you will be there to welcome Peter Regelous who will chronicle his life in showbiz and talk about his book *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Life*. Do come and join us for a cup of tea and biscuits and settle down for an informative and interesting afternoon, which includes a raffle. We meet in St John's Hall every 3rd Thursday from 1.30pm.

Eileen Quinn
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



www.waterlanetheatrecompany.co.uk

And Then There were None

A reminder of our popular Agatha Christie murder-mystery play which promises to keep you on the edge of your seat, on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th, and Saturday 19th March at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Saturday at 3.00pm.



These performances are in aid of Grove Cottage. Tickets: adults £16, concessions £14, matinee £12 are available from South Mill Arts box office on 710200 or online at www.southmillarts.co.uk. Water Lane welcomes new members both on and off stage. For details please email waterlanetc@gmail.com.

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We were delighted to see a full house for Gary Ryan's scintillating guitar recital last December; there is clearly still a thirst for live music in Stansted. We are confident of another great turnout for the *Ferio Saxophone Quartet*, on **Saturday 9th April** at 7.30pm in St John's Church. This exciting young group of players have performed up and down the length of the UK from London's Wigmore Hall to the Edinburgh Fringe, as well as Bermuda, Normandy and New Zealand. The versatile sound of four saxophones (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) works with musical styles ancient and modern.



The Ferios have released a whole CD of Baroque transcriptions, several of which they will be performing for us in Stansted. These will include much-loved favourites such as Bach's *Sheep may safely graze* and movements from Handel's *Water Music*. By way of contrast, they will also be performing Bernstein's *West Side Story* suite, Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and a suite from Bizet's *Carmen*. Tickets: adults £15 and £12, under 18s free, will be available on the door or can be ordered in advance by ringing 815282.

Those of you who have been suffering withdrawal symptoms during the last two years of Covid restrictions will be pleased to hear that, all being well, we expect to resume our usual programme of four concerts a year this coming Autumn. During the summer we will be contacting all our regulars with details of the delights in store, and information on how to order season tickets at a substantial discount. If you are not already on our emailing list (or our snail mail list if you prefer), just contact us and we will be in touch, ready to quench your musical thirst.

Richard Allaway
Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk

March at the gardens is daffodil season. A number of years ago I learned we had 33 varieties of daffodil, including wild and cultivated varieties, in the lime wood and the glade. Since then, I know for sure we have planted others, including a host of Tête-à-Tête to frame the Italian garden. So why not visit us and see how many varieties you can count? Dogs on leads are welcome and they will enjoy their visit too.



Our weekly Open Thursdays run from the beginning of March to the end of November. We are open from 11.00am-3.00pm, while the volunteers crack on with the gardening. The archive building is open, so visitors can learn more about the gardens' history and the projects undertaken by the Trust. This year we will also be providing hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes for visitors on Thursdays. As the season develops, there will be produce for sale; starting with rhubarb and then vegetables, hopefully mangetouts first, then dwarf beans, spinach and gradually the rest of the range. There is no need to book for Open Thursdays. If you get a season ticket or become a Friend of the gardens you can pop in regularly at good value; these can be bought on site or from our website. On **Thursday 17th March** 10.00am-5.00pm we also have a special new volunteers' day. We welcome them all year round, but on the new special day we show potential recruits the range of work we do, including gardening, maintenance and carpentry work, catering and other visitor experience roles. Bring your own lunch; hot drinks and cakes provided. If you are interested in joining us on that day, it would be helpful if you could let us know by phoning 01371 876979.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

1 Space-time 6 Upper 10 Mobile 11 Rhapsody
12 Immersion heater 15 Knitting needles 18 Ephemera
20 Anthem 21 Spade 22 Penthouse

Down

2 Plowman 3 Crime 4/8 The end 5 Marron glace 7 Pasta
9 Mashie 13 Shiner 14 Eyeless 16 Tread 17 Ditto
19/20 Pop art



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Two Ball Beach Banger Rally

Two Grove Cottage supporters are seeking sponsorship from local businesses as they embark on a daring challenge across Europe this summer which will test their state of mind, teamwork, driving and navigational skills. The *Two Ball Beach Banger Rally* will take Allison Smith and Nicola Rooke almost 1,300 miles through three countries over four days in a banger, all to raise vital funds for us. The trip starts in Saint Quentin on 22nd July, travelling through France and Italy and finishing in Barcelona on 25th July, passing *en route* the French Alps and the Pyrenees. The friends are seeking sponsors to help them achieve their goal of raising as much as possible for our amazing charity and want to say a massive thank you to Croucher Needham Accountants, their first sponsor.



In exchange for sponsorship, local companies and organisations can benefit from extensive marketing exposure via their own personal social media accounts, as well as through Grove Cottage's marketing campaigns. There will also be marketing opportunities through various fundraising events and activities to promote awareness and support. To pledge your support, please visit our Facebook page at Al and Nicky's Two Ball Beach Rally Challenge in aid of Grove Cottage or email: alandnickyally@gmail.com.

Grove Cottage, the home of Bishop's Stortford Mencap, also supports older children and adults of all ages through a wide range of social, creative, fitness and life skills clubs. These clubs provide invaluable social and educational support to so many people, as well as much needed respite for families.

Alison Cameron
Fundraising Assistant
Tel: 07940 543281

PREFIXES QUIZ PART 1 ANSWERS

1. Fire 2. Love 3. Inter 4. Gate 5. After 6. Direct
7. Jack 8. Ball 9. King 10. Chain 11. Home 12. Easy

We had our first meeting of the year at the Linden on 4th February with our special offer of free breakfasts for the first 30 delegates who came along to the meeting. Sara Orsbourn's interactive presentation to identify personality types asked members to choose



from lists of characteristics which required them to move around the room depending on their choice. They ended up in a D, I, S or C corner of the room. There was a great deal of chatter and discussion as people made their choices; not easy as people are often a combination of personalities. Here are some brief examples of the DISC profiles which can be used to aid recruitment and staff reviews:

- D tend to be driven and dominant
- I are more influencing and inspiring
- S are great team members and good at organising
- C like to focus on detail and are keen to enforce the rules.

We are also pleased that Forest Hall, one of our longstanding members, has had a very good Ofsted inspection. The Headteacher, Matt Carter, praised students and thanked staff for their hard work, commenting: "this means maintaining the highest standards and developing a high performing team culture". He is incredibly proud of the school, pupils and staff; the school is now full of eager pupils who want to learn and do well. This report recognised the work done over the past four years to achieve this.

Our next meeting is on **Friday 4th March 7.00am** at The Linden; to book, please email James Garrett on info@communityengagementconsultants.co.uk.



Iris Evans
Treasurer



www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

A reminder that we are open **every Wednesday 10.00am-noon**. We can only accommodate adults on Wednesdays but we are planning to open *Fun Place on the Hill* for all ages on Fridays after Easter; see separate article on page 4 for more information. 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. We look forward to seeing you.



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



STANSTED FUN RUN

www.stansted10K.org.uk

Following the success of last year's event, we are pleased to confirm that over £7,000 was raised and distributed to our charities; this included the money kindly donated by runners who registered for our 2020 event and declined a refund. The charities that benefited are The Huw Johnson Club, St Clare Hospice, Grove Cottage and St Margaret's Hospital. None of this would have been possible without the support of our sponsors Grenville, AVS, Conneely Group, Nockolds, Intercounty and the kind contributions from Uttlesford District Councillors Alan Dean and Melvin Caton. A thank you to the Lyons and Humphreys families for allowing our runners to cross their land.

The local businesses which donated prizes for our raffle included Jet2, Pleasetakemethere, VA Airline Training, Golf World Stansted, Bear and Eden, Dorringtons, Lino Hair and Little Monsters Dunmow. Also, a big thank you to the Rose and Crown, Bentfield Green for the food and entertainment. Grateful thanks to all of the volunteers who worked hard to arrange the event and those that helped on the day, without whom we could not have staged the event. Thank you all. As this event was delayed to later in 2021, the Committee have made the decision to hold our next run in June 2023. Please look out for further information.

Clair Rava

Email: stansted10K@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

Our first team's relentless march towards promotion continues as we now enter a period of games when the majority of our remaining league fixtures are at home. The successful run in the cup competitions has seen the team qualify for one semi-final; however for that game we will have to travel. Having these home fixtures and with the support of the airport army behind the team will hopefully give the team the extra impetus needed. Our small squad of players are all itching to play in every game which is great to see but leaves our team management the headache of managing the team selection, thus avoiding any sustained injuries. However, there is a great togetherness within the group and even those substitutes who do not play at all are the first to celebrate three points.

Fixtures at Hargrave Park in March:

5 th v Little Oakley	3.00pm ESL Premier Division
12 th v St Margaretsbury	3.00pm ESL Premier Division
26 th v Clapton	3.00pm ESL Premier Division

Any changes will be announced on our social media websites.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

STANSTED BOWLS CLUB



The evenings are getting a little bit lighter and Covid, whilst still a concern, appears to be allowing for more normality. The Club is also hoping to get back to more habitual arrangements. This means that our Friday night social activities are resuming, and we are hoping to see many of our members and prospective members over the coming weeks. We hope that, by the time you read this article, many of our members will have been down to the Club, committed themselves for the coming season and got their new shirt order in. For prospective members we are arranging a couple of dedicated social evenings; the first is **Friday 18th March** 6.30pm-8.30pm, and this should be a good opportunity to look round the Club and meet some current and new bowlers. The bar will be open, though if I am behind the bar then please note my bartending skills are limited and, as I have recently proved, I require further training in pouring beers and mixing shandies!

Our 2022 outdoor season starts with the preparation weekend on **23rd and 24th April** and soon thereafter we will be playing matches. This is because the Steeple Bumpstead Pairs League also starts that week; this is the first year we have entered for this league. Before this we want to get some coaching theory workshops in the diary to make sure all our members are up to date on rules of play. These will start on **Friday 23rd March** at 7.00 pm for an hour. To find out more about any of the above events, or if you want to know more about the Club, do please contact me.

Jeanette Mansell

Secretary

Tel: 07967 033924

Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com



Stansted Tennis Club

Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

The AGM will be held on **Tuesday 8th March** at 8.00pm in the Day Centre; all are welcome. Club sessions continue on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Men's Club nights are on the first Monday of every month and ladies' nights are on the second and fourth Monday. These sessions are open to adult members and non-members (paying a £2 visitor fee).

LTA qualified coach Ollie Toms continues his popular coaching programme for juniors and adults. Please contact him on 07917 652014 or visit www.olliestennis.co.uk for more information. We are also looking to offer beginners' coaching if there is sufficient demand, so please contact Ollie to register your interest.

Fiona Kelly

Publicity Officer

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron ATC	Squadron Chairman: Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Michael Dodd Tel: 07808 635652 Email: chair.494@rafac.mod.gov.uk	Rainbow Pre-School 506997	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Foster Tel: 07818 417971
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Bowls Club	Jeanette Mansell, Hon Secretary Tel: 01371 821446	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: peterlathamz@outlook.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	St John's Road and Area Association	Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 03002 470122 Email: essexwest- hftcentraladminhub @nhs.net
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tek: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Emma Croutcher Email: croutchere@gmail.com	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: eatmorestillton@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office Tel: 656085	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.net
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stansted.net
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 07759 157620 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	u3a	Susan Sedgbeer Email: bertiestar@gmail.com
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com	WI (Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: help@letstalkstansted.org	WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768		
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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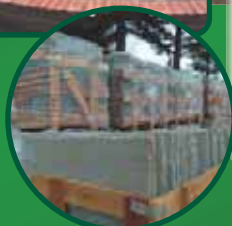
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