# Stansted Mountfitchet The Link



Volume XLIII

Number 5

April 2023

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# Front cover: Spring Daffodil by Dale Crowson



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

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### EDITORIAL



How about that for a stunning front cover photo!? So simple, but so beautiful with the contrast between the colour of the daffodil and the sky. Our thanks go to Dale Crowson for sending this picture to us; Dale has provided us with a number of pictures in the past, both for the front cover and inside the magazine. Thanks also to Tricia Bromley who has been creating brain teasers for us; see p 4 for her contribution. Items like The Quiz help enhance the variety of articles of which we are so proud.

Below is the Social Club article for April: this community club seems to be going from strength to strength under the management of Andrew Sharpe – the membership is nearly 900, surely that is unheard of in a village of this size?! I would also like to draw your attention to the St John's article on the next page, which is about the 300 Club, encouraging us to join. For a tiny monthly payment, you stand to win a decent amount of money and it is for such a great cause. Finally, for something completely different: the article on p 25 is about an artist called Mark Lamberto and his fascinating story of triumph over adversity.



### **STANSTED FIRE STATION**

/.essex-fire.gov.uk/locations/Station\_83\_Stansted

Hello from all the crew. It has been a busy time for the crew responding to a host of different incidents, and as the days get longer with the arrival of spring, the crew are undergoing many drills. Along with our regular training nights when we cover risk critical skills and fire ground training, the crew have been attending extra Breathing Apparatus drills, and tabletop exercises with our surrounding stations to really sharpen our skills.

During March we had visits from local groups including Cubs, Beavers and Brownies and have greatly enjoyed showing everyone around the Station plus giving talks on Fire Safety advice. It was good to meet everyone and we look forward to the other bookings we have throughout the year. We have also been busy visiting and supporting groups in Stansted and the surrounding villages,



including local schools and pre-schools to help with early-stage learning. The crew have also been out and about in the community promoting and explaining the role of an On-Call Fire-fighter and we now have three new trainee recruits going through the selection process to join our team. The team continue to support residents through various roles, including conducting home fire safety visits and ongoing training if needed. We offer free home visits to any Essex resident. If you do not have working smoke alarms or would like more information about how to live safely and securely at home, book one of our free visits at www.essexfire.gov.uk and search for Home Fire Safety. Stay safe and best wishes from all at Stansted Fire Station.

> Steven Perry Tel: 01376 575830 Email: steven.perry@essex-fire.gov.uk



SOCIAL CLUB

If you are thinking of joining the Club, the membership fee is £15 which will take you through to renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Senior citizens can join for £10 until that date. Membership fees are the life blood of the Club and allow us to continue with improvements, staff training and a whole lot more. Once you are a member, access to the Club and all entertainment is free. We currently have 866 members and we are very grateful for their continued support. We are now reviewing a firm plan for the garden refurbishment and are excited about how it will look once complete. It will truly transform the look of the garden. We are also moving forward with a complete refit of the disabled toilet and baby change. It will make the room a lot more comfortable and a bit warmer!

We have a packed entertainment programme for April which kicks off with *Parallel Covers* making a welcome return on **Saturday 1**<sup>st</sup>. On **Friday 7**<sup>th</sup> we have *33RPM*, followed by DJ Bongo and a live sax party on **Saturday 8**<sup>th</sup>. **Friday 14**<sup>th</sup> sees our ever-popular Karaoke night hosted by Martin from *Cloud 9*. **Saturday 15**<sup>th</sup> is one not to be missed as we have a *George Michael* tribute. *Bombshell* are back on **Saturday 22**<sup>nd</sup> followed by a newcomer to the Club, *P45*. They are a *Madness/SKA* tribute band and it promises to be a fantastic night. Our final entertainment for April sees Sarah Hewson returning with her fabulous set of *ABBA* songs. As always, you can get the latest Club information on our Facebook page.



Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclu8b@gmail.com



### UGLEY VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

We are having another coffee morning on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**, 10.00am-noon. There will be coffee, tea, cakes, a raffle and bring and buy stall. Proceeds go towards the upkeep of Ugley Village Hall. We hope to see you there.



Susan Bone Tel: 814052

### ST JOHN'S – YOUR PARISH CHURCH YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

I expect most of you have at some time been into St John's Church – our beautiful red-brick building which stands in the centre of the village. It has been described as a 'Victorian gem'. Poet Sir John Betjeman was a particular fan of the church's architect, W D Caröe, and he went so far as to say "It is the entire and unspoilt work of an exceptional and scholarly architect and is a most harmonious composition of delightful detail". Praise indeed!



The building has changed little since Sir John's time. However, in the nearly 135 years since its dedication, there has naturally been some deterioration, and repairs have been funded by generous donations from the regular congregation and others in the parish. Some of the money needed for the upkeep of the building has come through the 300 Club, which raises much needed funds and gives villagers the opportunity to support the upkeep of their local church. To come to the point, please will you join the 300 Club? Here is how it works: anyone over 18 can join and £2 a month will buy you one number which remains yours for as long as you are a member. Each household can buy up to five numbers. Every month all the numbers are entered into a draw which takes place in the church. There are three monthly prizes: £100, £50 and £25 plus two Super Draws in July and December with an additional prize of £200. You do not need to be in church for the draw, and you will be notified immediately if you are a winner. Please email me (or telephone and leave a message if I am out) with your contact details and I will organise your membership. Thank you so much. Listed below are the three winners in the February draw:

- £ 50 No.56 Philip Everett
- £ 25 No.45 Anthony Minshull

The draw for April will be held on  $30^{th}$  April in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service.

Kathy West Tel: 816293 or 07880 602717 Email: kewest@btinternet.com



### RECYCLING



### Now accepting mobile phones and tablets

We are continuing to pause our collection of blister packs whilst the backlog is being cleared. However, we can now accept **mobile phones and tablets** (not the chargers) for recycling. Please make sure all personal data has been erased. The easiest way to do this is by a *factory reset*; please see your manufacturer's website for instructions on how to do this for your particular phone. It would be helpful if **all items** could be placed in a paper/plastic bag or envelope. Donations can be left in the boxes outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. There is also a collecting box inside St John's Church. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.



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



# CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH



Churches Together in Stansted invite you to a Super Soup lunch on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April** noon-2.00pm in Stansted Free Church Hall on Chapel Hill. These used to be called hunger lunches, but we guarantee you will not leave hungry! There will be a collection towards the great work that Christian Aid does around the world to alleviate the desperate poverty caused by soaring costs of food and essentials, and the droughts, floods and storms attributed to climate change. Join us for lunch and take the Big Pea Challenge! Please let me know that you are coming, so that we have enough soup, although booking is not absolutely essential. There is limited free parking at the church.



Catherine Dean Tel: 07803 299683 Email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com

### **IN MEMORIAM**

### BARBARA ROSINA EAGLETON 15<sup>th</sup> October 1945 - 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Barbara Eagleton (née Sandford) was born in Stansted and lived there until 1967 when she married me, and we moved to Devon. During our time in Stansted we were both very involved in village activities; Barbara was a Brownie Leader and a member of the choir at St Mary's Church. Until a few years ago we returned regularly to Stansted to visit my elderly mother. More recently we kept in touch via The Link. Barbara died suddenly this week six months after surgery for a rare sarcoma. Whilst she had lived for so long away from Stansted, in her heart she was still an Essex girl.

> Keith Eagleton Email: eaglesclan22@hotmail.com



www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

We experienced a wonderful *World Book Day* on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. It was fantastic to see our pupils take part in this event with enormous enthusiasm, not only with the effort they have made with so many amazing book character outfits, but also to witness the passionate way in which they have engaged with the reading activities during their lessons.



Over the past year, reading has been a key focus area at our school, in line with Essex County Council's Year of Reading initiative. We are delighted to have recently launched our new school reading spine, which comprises a selection of core books in each class, Nursery to Year 6, which pupils can access throughout the year. There are copies of these books in class libraries, as well as some to take home. We encourage families and the wider community to use our reading spine as a guide as to which books to purchase or to borrow from local libraries. The core books have been selected using a range of criteria; we believe these will not only give pupils the opportunity to develop their fluency and comprehension, but more importantly, enhance their engagement and love of reading as they move through our school and beyond. There are books that provide challenges for our more able readers, for example through their lexical level, or because they contain text that contains archaic, figurative or symbolic language. We have also taken into consideration books which address diversity and equality, to ensure that our reading spine aligns with the aims of our school curriculum. For more information please see our website and search for *reading spine*.

> David Rogers Headteacher Tel: 813626

### STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 4**<sup>th</sup> **April** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street where we will be discussing *The Accidental Tourist* by Anne Tyler. The title refers to a series of guidebooks called *The Accidental Tourist* written by an author who hates to travel for people who also loathe travelling. It is a warm, wise, funny, heartbreaking and ultimately life-affirming novel. Please get in touch if you would like to join us; a warm welcome will await.



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

### QUIZ

- 1 The largest human organ
- 2 The oldest racecourse in England (Ascot, Cartmel or Chester)
- 3 Type of granny that David Walliams wrote about
- 4 Location of the international court of justice
- 5 Number represented in binary as 1010
- 6 The northernmost city in the UK
- 7 Decade when the first football world cup was played
- 8 Year when the 5 nations become 6 nations and name of the additional team
- 9 The most consumed manufactured drink in the world
- 10 Farthest distance: 3km or 2 miles
- 11 Pilot who fought in the Battle of Britain with two artificial legs
- 12 Animal on Lacoste's logo
- 13 Lead singer of The Who
- 14 Bestselling flavour of soup in the UK
- 15 Type of animal associated with Downing Street's Larry

Compiled by Tricia Bromley. Answers on page 27.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### SAFFRON WALDEN RECYCLING CENTRE

Dear Editor

### **Online Advance Booking**

On my arrival at our recycling centre at Saffron Walden recently, I was given a leaflet highlighting new arrangements for disposing of recycling and rubbish, which came into effect in March. Vehicle owners are required to have pre-booked a slot online for which they will receive a confirmation email which must be presented on arrival; there is an exemption for blue badge holders. Apparently Essex County Council needs to manage demand and reduce queuing at peak times. However, whenever I have gone there during the week, there have been no queues. I can see a need to book at the weekend, but common sense would suggest that this is unnecessary during the week. It seems that people from other counties visit the Essex facility; proof of Essex residency would render this problem redundant.

There appears to have been little consultation over these changes; and what are people without internet access supposed to do? It would surely be more inclusive to allow people (with proof of Essex residency) to continue to visit during the week *without an appointment*. This would enable people without internet access and those who visit during the week to continue as before. Most people appreciate the environmental imperative of recycling more and throwing away less. Making it more difficult might just have the opposite effect, resulting in some people no longer being prepared to make the effort. This is an unwelcome and unnecessary decision by the Council; they should review this policy and think again!

> Jonathan Fox Stansted Resident



### 7 pm Sat 1st April B S United Reformed Church Adults £10, under 16s £5

in advance from 07855 796152 email: tickets@amicicantate.org.uk www.ticketsource.co.uk/amicicantate

Tickets also available on the door



Lower Street Car Park Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

Apr 2nd, 16th & 30th May 14th & 28th

# WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

1 2 4 5 6 9	Sat Sun Tue Wed Thu Sun	Amici Cantate Green Waste Skips Stansted is well Read Mountfitchet Garden Club History Society Link copy due in today
10	Mon	Windmill open
10	Tue	Windmill open RSPB
		Not B
13	Thu	Stansted W I
14	Fri	Stansted Business Forum
15	Sat	Farmers' Market
		Christian Aid Lunch
16	Sun	Green Waste Skips
19	Wed	Ugley W I
20	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting
		Magna Carta School Quiz
23	Sun	Tudor Themed Open Day
27	Thu	Coffee Morning
29	Sat	U3A Saturday Seminar
30	Sun	Green Waste Skips

U R Church B Stortford 7 pm Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm Dog and Duck 8 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm Day Centre 8 pm before noon 1.30 - 5.30 pm 1.30 - 5.30 pm Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm Day Centre 7.30 pm The Linden 7 - 9 am Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon Free Church Hall noon - 2 pm Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm Ugley Village Hall 2 pm St John's Hall 2 pm Day Centre 7 for 7.30 pm Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon Free Church Hall 9.30 am Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm

### SWSO waden Grebstra

3 pm Sun 21st May Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden John Foulds *Mirage* Malcolm Arnold *2nd Clarinet Concerto* Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique* 

Adults £17 and £20, 18-25s £10 under 18s £5 from Saffron Hall Box Office 0845 548 7650 www.saffronhall.com or on the door

# STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

10 am - 4 pm Sat 13th May Bowls Club, Recreation Ground View the Green and have a go Craft Stalls Hot and Cold Refreshments Please wear flat shoes ~ bowls provided Tel 07881 852833 All Welcome

### Friends of St Mary's Church The Wind in the Willows with live music & puppetry

3 - 4.30 pm Sat 27th May

Tickets: Adults £15, Under 16 £10 Under 4 Free from www.thisismytheatre.com or call 07732 253311

## vgley Village Ha以 www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

COFFEE MORNING 10 am - noon Thu 27th Apr

Coffee • Tea • Cakes Raffle • Bring and Buy

Free Parking ~ All Welcome



# Stansted Millers

Windmill Easter Openings Come and have a look round

1.30 - 5.30 pm Easter Sunday 9th Apr Bank Holiday Monday 10th Apr *Easter Egg Hunt for Children Refreshments* 

 UGLEY:
 10 am - noon

 Sat 15th Apr
 Sat 15th Apr

 www.ugleyvillage.org.uk
 Ugley Village Hall

Meat ~ Fish ~ Fruit and Veg Hummus and Soup ~ Plants Bread & Home Baking ~ Eggs Honey ~ Skincare

Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts

Refreshments and Free Parking

For info and future dates tel 814052



### An Invitation to Lunch

Noon - 2 pm Sat 15th April Free Church Hall

### FREE tasty homemade soup

No need to book, but it would be helpful if you could let Catherine know on 07803 299683 if you are coming

Collection for Christian Aid



### MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

PTA QUIZ NIGHT

7 for 7.30 pm Thu 20th April Day Centre, Crafton Green

Tickets £6 Tables of 6 Email: magnacartapta@gmail.com Licensed Bar pay by cash or card Games pay by cash



Adults £5.50 advance via website £6.50 on the gate, Children Free *Tel: 01371 876979* 



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www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

### Stress Awareness Month

This has been held every April since 1992 to increase public awareness about both the causes and cures for our modern stress epidemic. Many aspects of life can cause stress; here are some top tips to help manage it:

- 1. Get enough sleep. Sleep is essential for the body to function properly. A routine can help you get to sleep. Take a relaxing bath, avoid anything stimulating, such as phones or TV, write down any worries or thoughts and set aside
- 2. Work off stress with physical activity. Pressure or anger releases adrenaline in the body. Exercise helps to reduce it and produces 'good mood' substances in the brain. Even a five-minute walk can make all the difference
- **3. Breathe**. Taking a few deep breaths allows more oxygen to reach the brain, helping you become calm and restore concentration and focus
- 4. Manage your time optimally. Prioritise and use a diary to help prevent feeling overwhelmed by all the things that need attention
- 5. Learn to say no. Simple, but effective. Put yourself first
- 6. If you are ill, rest. Recognise you have limits and allow your body to recover
- 7. Avoid nicotine, alcohol, caffeine and refined sugar products. They are all stimulants; if you are stressed, try to cut down
- 8. Hobbies. Activities outside of work and home can be a great way to break up the week and alleviate stress
- 9. Listen to music. Music can help reduce stress and create a calming atmosphere
- **10. Talk to someone.** Speak to a friend, family member, visit your GP or call Samaritans any time day or night free on 116123.

For more information on Stress Awareness Month or on national and local mental health support visit our website.

Rachel Dawes Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org



# THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Place continues to offer a friendly warm space for all adults on **Wednesdays 10.00am-noon**. Join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits in good company - what more could you ask? We even have a jigsaw you can work on. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill and save on your home's energy bills. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



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

### STANSTED SCOUTS



### **Double Gold**

Roisin and Aoife are two of our leading Scouts; they have attained their Chief Scouts Gold award. They have completed all nine Scout Challenge Awards, including tackling some challenges during the Covid lockdown. Each one of these brings its own requirements: to connect with their wider world, try different activities, explore their faith, pitch a tent and practice their camping skills, as well as work as a team towards a common goal and above all, have some fun.



Scouts usually spend four years working towards their Gold but these two did it in three years, which is remarkable considering Covid. It will be good to see them wearing their awards whilst still in the Scout section. Wear them with pride; well done from the whole troop.

> Mike Byrne Scout Leader Tel: 812780 Email: mikejdbyrne@gmail.com



# ST JOHN'S YOUNG VOICES

### Does your child love singing?

We are excited to announce the re-launch of our children's choir: St John's Young Voices. Our new choir is open to all children from school years 4-8 (aged 8-13), although older girls and boys with unbroken voices may also be considered. The choir is a fun way to make new friends as well as providing invaluable musical training for young singers through regular rehearsals. On the first Sunday of each month they will sing with the adult choir at the morning service in church. There will also be opportunities to perform on other occasions at St John's.

Rehearsals begin on **Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>** 3.00pm-4.00pm in St John's Church. Please just come along if you are interested and try it out. For further information please contact either of us.

Anne Brooks, Choir Director Email: anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk Rev'd Helen Flack, Associate Priest Tel: 01371 876145 Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com





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### DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

How lovely it is to be able to show off our lovely farm to all our visitors. Thank you so much for coming to see us. We have many babies around the farm and they are so cute, so do visit our small animal area in the woods, cuddling the orphans - lambs or goats. You can feed our animals, enjoy themed arts and crafts, playing in the Woodland Trail or having a ride on our train; you can also enjoy a cuppa and a cake. You might also want to love a lamb, hold a chick or duckling and cuddle a kid.



We are open every day until 4.00pm, so make sure you come and see us in the Easter holidays. Please do check our Facebook page for any updates. There is no need to prebook and entry is only £5 each, but please be aware we have no credit card facilities. If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Perhaps you arrange school trips? Then come and have a chat with us, we love having the schoolchildren and they love coming here for an informative and fun day out. There is so much going on at our farm, so we really hope to see you. We are at Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

> Elaine Terry Tel: 07747787973

### FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Please come and join us on Friday mornings; children enjoy playing with the toys and have plenty of space to run around and listen to Story Time around 10.30am. Adults chat over coffee in a relaxed atmosphere. Although particularly suitable for younger children, all ages are welcome, on **Fridays 9.15am-11.30am** in the Free Church Hall, which is warm and comfortable. Why not come along for a couple of hours and help save on home energy costs? Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea or coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings. The Fun Place will not be open on Good Friday.

> Sue Parker and Fran Richards Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

### ST MARY'S SCHOOL



www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

Here we are at Easter again and as I write this there is high excitement at school due to the unexpected snowfall overnight, resulting in a large Astro pitch with perfect snow playing opportunities. It has been a busy month at the school; we have had more success with Key Stage 2 athletics, our Year 1s have been enjoying swimming lessons at Grange Paddocks and we held a sponsored reading event. Many thanks to all who took part; we are just waiting for the last few sponsorship forms to be returned so we can announce the amount raised. Staff have also been on Deaf Awareness Training.

At the end of term we will say good bye to Sam Lawrence as she departs on maternity leave. Ruth Greenway will teach Chestnut for the remainder of the year and Chloe O'Toole will be in charge of Whitebeam. We will also be saying goodbye to Tamara Enzel who has, in her five years with us, proved time and time again to be the most community minded member of staff we have ever had. Her randomacts-of-kindness have been legendary! We will miss you.

> Matthew Curzon Headteacher Tel: 812212

### YOUNG PERSON'S PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

In last month's edition we announced that as part of the Anglia in Bloom Action Group's preparation for our 2023 entry, we are organising a young person's photography competition. Murdochs Estate Agents and Lettings are sponsoring the competition and there will be vouchers for winners and runners up. This is a great opportunity for young people to showcase their photographic skills. The theme of the competition is *I love Stansted Mountfitchet* and the overall winner will hopefully feature on the front cover of The Link, on the Parish Council website and on social media platforms.

The theme is very open ended and could feature a village landscape, characters who live or work in the village or some aspect of the natural environment; but the photo must be taken within the Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Boundary. The picture needs to be in portrait format for the front cover of The Link. There are two age groups: 12-18 and 11 and under. Entries need to be submitted as high resolution jpeg files and sent as an attachment to the email address below. Please state your name, age and contact number. Closing date for entries is **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May** and winners will be announced in early June. There is a limit of one entry per person.



Trevor Lloyd Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com

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### RSPB www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

With April arriving, hopefully so does Spring, and with it the chance to experience the outdoors. In addition to our usual meeting, we have two outstanding outdoor activities. There is a chance to walk alongside a rare and unique chalk river; and to end the month, experience the arrival of nightingales. All are welcome and we would be delighted to share the experiences with you. We start as usual with a meeting on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, next to Tesco. Iain Boulton will present *Wildlife Early Warning Systems;* he works for Lambeth Council as a Parks Compliance Officer and his presentation shows us how we can use wildlife as indicators of environmental health to give us notice that something is going wrong, or working well.



We have a local bird walk on Monday 24th April at 10.00am starting from St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Lane, Stapleford, Hertford SG14 3NB. This is a new route of just under three miles which goes south along a delightful section of the chalk river Beane, before crossing farmland with many stunning views. On Sunday 30th April we are visiting Essex Wildlife Trust Fingringhoe Wick at South Green Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester CO5 7DN. Meet at the reserve at 10.00am. The reserve is nationally renowned for its nightingales and this visit is timed to coincide with the arrival of them. Last year was a spectacular success with many heard and a clear sighting, so it is well worth a return visit (see photo above) The reserve has extended opening hours to allow the nightingales to be experienced in the evening. Full details of all our activities are on our website.

> Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com

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#### www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Our March speaker, Andrew Babicz, gave an interesting illustrated talk full of ideas on Seasonal Container Gardening. Members were shown how containers of all shapes and sizes can be used for flowers, fruit, vegetables and trees to add height and colour to a garden, as well as providing a homegrown harvest throughout the growing season. John Innes No 3 was recommended as the growing medium but containers need to be fed regularly, preferably with tomato or diluted seaweed feed. Throughout the talk members were given lots of tips, such as placing a Jeyes cloth over the drainage hole and holding in place by crocks, which will prevent beasties entering but allow the pot to drain. Another tip was when planting bulbs or bedding plants in large pots, after covering the hole use polystyrene, plastic pots or drink cans to fill the space, and then add the soil. Terracotta pots are expensive but are prone to cracking if the winter weather is harsh, and another tip was to use a repair paste called Milliput Terracotta Putty, available from DIY Stores, Amazon and garden centres. Once filled, containers are very heavy and a stand with wheels to move the pots around the garden was recommended.

Our AGM and Mini Spring Show are on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** at 8.00pm in the Day Centre. Doors will be open early to enable exhibits to be set up; full details can be found on our website. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting.

Maralyn Harris Chairman Tel: 07919 478144



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our February meeting saw the very welcome return of Tim Turner. His subject was Royal Memories; a fascinating talk illustrated with memorabilia belonging to his mother. These included an invitation to a reception and ball given by the City of Cape Town in 1947 to mark the visit of King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. He read extracts from his mother's diary which gave the talk a very personal touch. She came to London for the coronation in 1953 and was presented to the Queen a month later. Another of Tim's interesting items was a coronation stool used in Westminster Abbey. All those who had been invited to the coronation were given the chance to buy the stool on which they had sat - a very special souvenir of an historic occasion. We were also given a chance to see a china bowl commemorating the 1947 visit and numerous magazines and papers covering the coronation and subsequent royal events. His fascinating talk at an end he judged our competition for a royal souvenir and enjoyed a cup of tea with us.

Our April meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. The theme is *We entertain ourselves*. Why not come along and see what we are doing? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922

### Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club Your Friendly Community Hub!



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On a lovely day in February the Garden Group visited Grove Lodge, Saffron Walden. The owner, Chris Shennan, introduced them to his semi-woodland half-acre garden where hellebores, aconites, snowdrops, crocus and winter-flowering shrubs have been allowed free rein to create a beautiful, natural scene, high in biodiversity yet close to the town centre.



There was plenty more to see with two ponds, topiary, an orchard and fruit and vegetable garden. Their visit was on the day after the garden opened under the National Garden Scheme, so delicious cake and hot beverages were available following their tour. It was a great start to the year.

Nearly 80 people attended the February Saturday Seminar when David Morson talked about the conflict between Ukraine and Russia. They were taken back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century to discover the founding of Kievan Rus by Swedish Varangians, the forerunner of modern-day Ukraine. They learnt about the frequently moving borders and the famines imposed on Ukraine by Stalin, bringing them up to the fall of the USSR in the 1990s. Russia signed a treaty guaranteeing the borders of the countries formed out of that collapse. The audience was left with a much clearer idea of the history leading to this terrible war, helping them to see through current Russian propaganda. Our speaker at the General meeting on Thursday 20th April will be Lindsay Whitehouse, who has been Governor of several prisons including Chelmsford prison. He was also the first Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex and has written for professionals involved in the Youth Justice system. His talk is called My Life in Prison. Please see the Events page of our website for details of our next seminar on Saturday 29th April and seminars for the rest of this year.

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

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We were most fortunate to have as our speaker this month Alison Rowlands, Professor of European History at East Anglia University. She gave an illustrated talk about the Hertfordshire and Essex Witch Trials and the surprising difference in the two counties in the way that the accused were treated. Nowadays we tend to dismiss the concept of witches as nonsense; to those living in the middle and later centuries they were considered real, evil and often dangerous. It is also a misconception that all witches were women; men were often brought to trial accused of witchcraft. It is estimated there were several hundred executions in England and Scotland for witchcraft between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Witchcraft could cover a variety of offences from placing a curse on livestock to even a blood ritual and the intentional killing of children. Often animals like cats and ferrets were used as a transmission of this evil.

The comparison of Essex and Hertfordshire records shows that Hertfordshire had a far more tolerant judiciary; from 1560-1712 Essex executed some 291 souls but Hertfordshire only executed 79. For those sent to prison for lesser witchrelated offences, Essex was a far less tolerant place in which to be accused than its neighbouring county. Although the various laws on witchcraft were repealed towards the end of the 1700s many instances were still reported where punishment was dispensed by the aggrieved outside the judicial system. This fascinating talk was followed by questions from the audience. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April** at 8.00pm in the Day Centre.

> Edward Taub Email: taub8jr@btinternet.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

The first openings of the year at the Mill are 1.30pm-5.30pm on **Easter Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April** and **Bank Holiday Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April**. Our young visitors can take part in an Easter Egg Hunt on both days. The normal admission charges will apply: adults £2, children 50p. Unfortunately, we do not have a facility to accept electronic payments, so you need to make sure you have some cash to pay your entrance fee, purchase a few souvenirs and refreshments. If you have never visited the Mill before, please be aware that access to the higher floors is by a number of steep fixed step ladders. You are strongly advised to wear sensible shoes and young children must be closely supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

If you are reading this issue of The Link before Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March you still have time to buy tickets for the *Millers Race Night* which takes place in the Day Centre, Crafton Green. To book your tickets ring Richard Thomas on 813871.

> Trevor Lloyd Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk

# THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

If you want happiness, April is a good time to seek it. We are warming up after winter, the lighter evenings are a tonic, plants in the gardens are flourishing, and life is returning to our planet at full speed; but happiness itself is elusive, like that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, the more you seek it, the more it evades you. We can develop all sorts of strategies to find it, but happiness always seems to be one step ahead of us. On the other hand, we can have strategies to remove those things in our lives that prevent happiness, and doing so will make happiness a lot easier to experience, but that will not bring happiness itself. Happiness is the result of something else, just like the rainbow is the result of the relationship between water droplets and the sun. True happiness is the result of giving ourselves in love to others, of wanting the best for them; that is the definition of love, wanting the best.

Jesus in his life and ministry wanted the best for those around him, and for those that he met in the crowds that followed him, and indeed for the whole world. Through his ministry he achieved something immense, although the crux of his life was over in just a few hours, which we now call Easter. His capture, trials, crucifixion and death could never be called happy experiences; he was certainly not seeking happiness in them, but he did what he and his Father in heaven planned, to demonstrate just how much God loves his humanity, and just how far he would go to make that clear. His followers are called to share their love, and when they do, their reward will be a deep sense of happiness. Happy Easter.



Rev'd Stuart Veitch Free Church



### STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Good Friday 7th April 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Reflective Service Easter Sunday 9th April 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion

### ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April 6.00pm Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.00am Blessing of Palms and Celebration of Mass Holy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Good Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion Holy Saturday 8th April 8.00pm Easter Vigil and the first Mass of Easter Easter Sunday 9th April Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord 10.00am Celebration of Easter Sunday Mass

### **STANSTED QUAKERS**

Easter Sunday 9th April 10.30am Meeting

### ST JOHN'S

### Palm Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

9.30am Procession of the Palms and Holy Communion We gather in the memorial gardens (weather permitting) for the blessing of palm crosses and process into church. The service includes a dramatic telling of the Passion of Christ in words and music performed by the congregation and the choir

### Holy week Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

2.00pm Silent meditation in church. Join us for this oasis of calm in the week as we pray in silence for 30 minutes Maundy Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April

7.30pm Liturgy of Maundy Thursday followed by one hour vigil. A choral celebration of Holy Communion commemorating the last supper and Jesus's command to love one another in a symbolic act of foot washing

### Good Friday 7th April

2.00pm Liturgy of Good Friday. A reflective service of readings, hymns and anthems sung by our choir

### Holy Saturday 8th April

6.00pm Joint service at Farnham Church. The Easter Vigil; the first service of Easter at which we light the new fire and the Easter Candle

### Easter Sunday 9th April

9.30am Easter Day Holy Communion All are welcome at our services





### STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist/URC Chapel Hill www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

### **Preachers for April**

2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Good Friday
9 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion
16 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Gill Hulme
23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Topsy Brice
30 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Nigel Uden

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

### Hall Bookings

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





### ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ www.sttheresastansted.or

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

Baptism	by appointment
Parish Priest	Fr Liam Hayes Tel: 814349 Email: frliamhayes@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Parish Deacon	Rev'd Deacon Des Connors Tel: 07748 464101 Email:desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Parish Administrator	Clair Rava Tel: 816889 Email:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Masses	5
Saturday Sunday	5.00pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass 10.00am Mass







The Church Office, St John's Hall, All enquiries: including St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP Church Hall Tel: 815243 (with answerphone) Bookings Office hours: Monday 3.00pm-5.00pm Thursday and Friday 10.00am-12.00 Email: stansted.church.office@gmail.com Website: www.thefivechurches.org.uk Priest in Charge Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather Tel: 816721 Email: revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com Associate **Rev'd Helen Flack** Priest Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com Pastoral Kathryn West Assistant: Tel: 816293 Email: kewest@btinternet.com Director of Anne Brooks Music Email: anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk Services Family Communion (1st Sunday) 9.30am Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Sundays) 9.30am

### From St John's Registers February

Baptism 5<sup>th</sup> Pippa Rae Larkin

Funeral 6<sup>th</sup> Malcolm George Jessop, age 72 - at Cam Valley

### **STANSTED QUAKERS**

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

Contact	Jonathan Morrell Tel: 07775 860379 Email: woldsouth3@gmail.com		
Lettings	Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207 Email: yvonne-wood@outlook.com		

**Sunday worship** 10.30am. Visitors are always welcome. We join together in stillness for an hour, followed by coffee and chat. Quakers allow each person to explore their own experience of the divine. We try to live our faith in everyday life, with a dedication to peace, simplicity, truth, equality, and nature.

**Light Group** This is a guided Quaker meditation. There is more information on the noticeboard outside the Meeting House or do contact Sue on 07759 532115. We generally meet on the  $2^{nd}$  Saturday of each month.





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www.stanstedbusinessforum.com

We had a lively meeting for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at The Linden, with a fabulous cake to celebrate the occasion. We have achieved a lot over the last 10 years, and it has been a busy time; for example setting up summer and winter fayres which involved the local community. Food vouchers were donated to support local families. Children at local schools did some drawings for our directory with prizes donated by members of the Forum. We also set up a mentor programme to link up with Forest Hall; the school has been a member of the Business Forum since the beginning and has had a good Ofsted inspection.



Close ties to the local parish council (PC) have always been our strength. Maureen Caton, Chair of our local PC, told us how the SBF and the PC had a relationship of mutual support which developed into the Economic Development Working Group, sharing important knowledge to support businesses. It was good to reminisce but to also look to the future as there are more people who have joined the team. We have got through the pandemic and are looking to print our business directory again to reach out to the local community. The meeting was a good chance to remind everyone that the forum has built its reputation on our mission to promote and support each other's businesses, and to think and buy local. We believe that our reputation is our cornerstone.

Trevor Lloyd spoke on behalf of Anglia in Bloom and talked about how businesses can help with sponsorship. He also mentioned the activities in which Stansted is involved for the competition this year. Join us for our next meeting on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April** and book a space by emailing James Garrett on hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com.





### HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club's activities during February and March in St John's Church Hall included a games evening and a curling competition, sadly without member Pauline who passed away in early February. We will be heading off to the Beefeater in Saffron Walden for a meal out before a two-week break and starting again on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm. If anyone is interested in attending as a member or a volunteer, please do get in touch. We are particularly in need of volunteer minibus drivers to help transport members to and from the Club.

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



Amici Cantate members are really looking forward to performing a wonderful selection of English and Welsh music on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April** at 7.00pm in the United Reformed Church, Bishop's Stortford, under their inspirational Musical Director James Davey. The accompanist will be the equally amazing Jonathan Ngai. Tickets: adults £10, under 16s £5 are available in advance from the Amici Ticket Secretary on 07855 796152, email: tickets@amicicantate.org.uk or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/amicicantate. Tickets will also be available on the door. There is no booking fee except for bookings made through Ticketsource. Tea, coffee, cakes and soft drinks will be available during the interval; there will also be a raffle.

> Ali Thompson Publicity Secretary Tel: 816188 Mob: 07866 580110



### THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

St Mary's church will be welcoming *thisismytheatre* back to entertain us with The Wind in the Willows on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May** 3.00pm-4.30pm. This magical tale, written by Kenneth Grahame, directed and adapted by Sarah Slator includes puppetry and live music: wonderful theatre right here in Stansted.



Tickets: adults £15, under 16s £10, under 4s free, concessions for friends of the church. Tickets available online from www.thisismytheatre.com or tel: 07732 253311. If you have not been to theatre in church before please do come; it will be a real treat for all the family.



Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474



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### **FRONT GARDENS**

It was no surprise to hear that a research project at the University of Sheffield has found that green front gardens reduce both psychological and physiological stress. I am sure a lot of rigorous scientific research went into the study but it is probably one of those news stories where we say "I could have told you that, mate"!



Green space makes us feel better, in so many different ways. As a nation, we are becoming aware of the impact that nature and green spaces have on our physical and mental well-being, but it is not all rosy in our front gardens. They are disappearing at an alarming rate in the UK; more than 4.5 million of them contain no plants at all, and a guarter of front gardens are now totally paved over. A stroll around any of the housing estates in the village suggest that Stansted is probably more or less in line with national trends. There are some areas where every front garden has multiple vehicles parked on it and on-street parking clogs up the roads and makes access difficult. That is the depressing part. The positive side is that there are areas of the village where front gardens abound with fantastic floral displays. If you choose your route carefully they really enhance a relaxing stroll around the village on a sunny day. The advice from the Royal Horticultural Society is:

- Keep paving to a minimum
- Use permeable materials
- Grow plants where you are unable to park

In summary, get creative; it is possible to park and garden. This picture of a winning entry in last year's Anglia in Bloom should provide inspiration; thanks to Penny Reeves for taking the photo which shows Alan Whitehead's front garden.

> Trevor Lloyd Email: lloydtrevor33@gmail.com



www.rainbowstansted.co.uk

The second half of the Spring term has been about people who help us, and the children were very excited to visit Stansted Fire station. We have had a visit from a paramedic and our local PCSO Alexander Stewart. The home corners in each of the classrooms have been changed - one into a doctors' surgery and the other a veterinary clinic. The children have very much enjoyed the different role play using lots of lovely language. Mother's Day and Easter cards have all been made plus plant gifts for the Mums. The Adventurers have thoroughly enjoyed their visits to the library for stories and singing with Lou. We are also very excited that we are restarting our visits to Mountfitchet House on Thursday mornings to spend an hour with residents doing craft activities and singing.

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

Gill Pursglove Administration Manager Tel: 814242 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net



### MANUDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.manudenprimary.co.uk

The school was visited by inspectors from Ofsted recently. We are delighted with the outcome; all areas were judged to be Good, and pupils' personal development was graded as Outstanding. The school is a special place with many strengths; we are pleased that this has been recognised by Ofsted as shown in the extracts from the report:

Pupils enjoy school life. They are incredibly respectful to each other and to adults. Pupils have an excellent understanding of diversity and how others are different from themselves. The school has a family feel where everyone looks out for each other.

The school's values are the golden threads that tie together the wider curriculum. Each element combines to give pupils an exceptional experience.



### World Book Day

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated World Book Day. As well as the children and staff dressing up as their favourite book character, there were a number of activites. The classes focused on different authors with wonderful activities linked to different books. Hawk Owl Class even got to eat a lovely chocolate cake, which inspired their work on a Michael Rosen poem. The children also spent time designing a new library for the school, a project we are currently looking at.

> Andrew Price, Headteacher Tel: 813370 Email: headteacher@manuden.essex.sch.uk

# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

# PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

...with news of next month's elections, the Neighbourhood Plan 2023, our stance on Bloor Homes' plans for 350 new homes near Walpole Meadows, and preparations for King Charles III's Coronation Fete

POLLING

STATION



### **ELECTIONS 2023**

istrict and parish elections are scheduled for Thursday, May 4. Candidates will be nominated for district councillor seats in the north and south wards of Stansted. It is too soon to know if an election is needed to fill positions on the Parish Council.

If more than 15 nominations are accepted by the elections officer at Uttlesford District Council, a poll

will be called to decide who will serve on the Parish Council. If there are 15 or less, posts will be filled by uncontested means and there will be no poll. It will be clear if there are to be Parish Council polls for the north or south wards, or both, after the deadline for nominations has passed on April 4.

### **VOTER ID**

Some things about the elections are more certain however. You must be 18 years old and be listed on the electoral roll to cast your vote on May 4. For the first time ever, you will need to present an accepted form of photo ID to vote in-person. For more information on how to vote and acceptable forms of ID, including the free Voter Authority Certificate, visit **electoralcommission.org.uk**.

### **KEY DATES**

**Tuesday, April 4 (4pm)** Deadline for nomination papers to be submitted

Monday, April 17 (midnight) Deadline to register to vote if you wish to cast a ballot in May

**Tuesday, April 18 (5pm)** *Deadline for receipt of postal vote applications* 

**Tuesday, April 25 (5pm)** *Deadline for receipt of proxy vote applications; also the deadline for the free Voter Authority Certificates for those individuals without an accepted form of photo ID available.* 

### THE PARISH COUNCIL & NEUTRALITY

For the pre-election period, colloquially referred to as Purdah, councils must observe certain restrictions on communications activity to ensure they are not seen to favour candidates or parties. Purdah for May's elections started on Wednesday, March 22. The Parish Council is now limiting its responses to comments and posts online from residents that may risk its neutrality. Please note, nothing from our silence should be inferred in such situations other than it being the best means to maintain our neutrality.

### **POLLING STATIONS**

The locations of polling stations around the village are unconfirmed as we go to press.

# NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023-40

he Neighbourhood Development Plan cleared an important hurdle in early March when the Full Council voted



Planning officials at Uttlesford District Council will now examine the document to ensure it meets certain basic requirements. For example, they will check if residents have been consulted when drawing up the plan. If the document passes this stage, Uttlesford will arrange for it to be independently examined. The district council will then organise a referendum so residents can vote on the plan.

Uttlesford District Council is without a Local Plan, the last being adopted in 2005 and this has affected the drafting of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Stansted. In fact the last planning document adopted by the district council for Stansted was a Community Plan in 2012.

Since then consultation events have been held in 2016 and 2017 to lay the groundwork for the NDP. In 2018 the Parish Council even commissioned outside expertise to help get the document over the line and adopted, only for Uttlesford to decide to withdraw its own Local Plan in 2019.

But the feedback from these previous consultations has not gone to waste. Added to more recent responses following a fresh cycle of consultation in 2021, this time on social media, your thoughts on Stansted's future have proved invaluable. Without them, there would be no plan. Accordingly, the Parish Council would like to thank you for taking the time to let us know your views on how development should look in our area in the coming years. Once we have the OK from UDC, you will be able to read the NDP 2023-40 at our website.

# 350 HOMES TOO MANY

On page 53 in Chapter 10 of the NDP you will read details of Site 015 Walpole Meadows North. This is one of just 5 places Parish Councillors have voted to offer conditional approval for future development in and around Stansted. This is the same site where Bloor Homes announced in January it would be consulting with residents over their plans to build 350 homes.

The volume of proposed development is close to a third more than the 250 figure cited for this site back in 2021 under UDC's Call for Sites initiative. This is one reason why the Parish Council is now questioning this specific project. Other concerns were put to Bloor Homes by parish councillors at the consultation event in January and since then in writing.

These included a lack of amenity space in the plans at this stage, the possible negative impact on Pennington Lane, along with question marks against the sustainability of a project that delivers few community gains as currently outlined. We wait to see if Bloor will address these concerns. Parish Council support for this particular project on Site 015 cannot be assured until they do.





The Stansted-Rungis Twinning Association's Martine Mansuy popped by our offices recently to catch up with Council Chair Maureen Caton. This year the association has organised a trip that will see the French town host a party of Stansted residents over the weekend of June 9-11 for La Fete de Rungis. Keep up to date with twinning activities and sign up to the association's newsletter at twinning@stansted.net

# **CORONATION PICNIC**

he Parish Council will host a Coronation Picnic on Sunday 7 May, at the Recreation Ground as part of national relebrations to mark the coronation

celebrations to mark the coronation His Majesty King Charles III due to take place the day before.

Preparations for this event are well underway. The Parish Council's Events working group is planning for a larger stage for live acts to play on, and to hire a better sound system than the one we had twelve months ago at the Platinum Jubilee event.



The Cork House are to provide a bar, and food stalls are being lined up.

Younger residents will have the chance to let off steam on a bouncy castle, and there will be arts and crafts stalls too. Local schools have been asked to take part in a painting competition to commemorate the Coronation.

Live acts, food stalls, restaurants and entertainers interested in helping the Parish Council deliver a fantastic community event can contact us at parishcouncil@stansted.net.

# **10 YEARS OF THE BUSINESS FORUM**

The Chair of the Parish Council, Maureen Caton, had an opportunity in March to congratulate the Stansted Business Forum on their 10th anniversary of representing the interests of local firms and enterprises.

Monthly networking events for its members are held by the Forum. They also supported the Parish Council's Christmas Fairs, and arranged summer fairs, to encourage residents and members to promote local business activities.

In fact the Parish Council decision to host and organise Christmas Fairs was instrumental in establishing a local business forum. The Economic Development Working Group, set up by the two parties since these early days, has



Representatives of the Stansted Business Forum celebrated the group's 10th anniversary with Parish and District Councillors in March.

tried to find fixes for local problems such as parking and flooding.

"We have also brought awareness of funding opportunities to the Forum's attention, while the forum has helped sponsor events and activities. The SBF perform an excellent job of supporting local businesses. We wish them continued success" says our Chair, Cllr Maureen Caton.

Visit www.stanstedbusinessforum.com to find out how your business can participate in the forum's activities.

# DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Geoffrey Sell District Councillor reports



ficially it's Spring but it may not feel like it. The daffodils are out brightening up our lives. We can look forward to Easter and the King's coronation. My parents were amongst the crowd for the late Queen's coronation in 1953. They often talked about Queen Salote Tupou III of Tonga who rode through the rainy streets of London in an open carriage refusing to close the top of her carriage as a sign of respect for the new monarch.

### **Budget**

Uttlesford District Council recently set its budget for 2023/24. Unlike Stansted Parish Council, which froze council tax, Uttlesford increased theirs by the legal maximum. The LibDem and Green Group were extremely disappointed that the R4U administration rejected their proposal that, in effect, would have frozen the Council Tax on properties in bands A to C in the district for the 2023/24 financial year. Now instead UDC's Council Tax will rise by £5 per annum. This amounts to £171.61 per annum for Band D properties.

### **Development Pressures**

The conflicting demands to accommodate a growing district are among the most acute pressures the new council will face. In the absence of a Local Plan tough decisions will need to be made to accommodate a growing community. The 2021 Census states that in Uttlesford, the population size has increased by 14.9%, from around 79,400 in 2011 to 91,300 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%). More information about the 2021 Census and Uttlesford can be accessed by typing this link into an internet browser: *Uttlesford facts and figures - E07000077 - ONSS* 

### Hurdles for Bloor

Despite holding two consultation events with residents, it is worth noting that as I type my column in early March, Bloor Homes has not yet filed a planning application for their plans to develop 350 houses north of the existing Walpole Meadows development. I am in touch with the case officer at Uttlesford. They have told me that they will shortly be deciding whether they will require an environmental impact assessment from Bloor. There is widespread concern about the impact of the development if granted on Stansted's creaking infrastructure. For example, Stansted surgery has already nearly 12,000 registered patients.

### Existing new developments

One thing in common with all the new developments whether it be Elms Farm, King Charles Drive or Walpole Meadows is getting the developers to comply with the legal agreements. S106 is an agreement between Uttlesford and a developer. I recently showed a local democracy reporter, whose position is funded by the BBC, around the developments. You can read their report by heading to essexlive.co.uk, then typing in "essex estates developers promised woodland." The piece highlights how since Walpole Meadow's completion, instead of allotments there is only a fenced off field, depressed trees dot the site, and it has taken three years to get the children's playground safety checked. Hopefully the media spotlight will put some pressure on the developers.

### Stansted Business Forum

The Forum recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ClIr Alan Dean and myself helped to found the Forum. For those who are running their own businesses it offers an excellent opportunity for networking. It meets monthly for breakfast at The Linden, Silver Street. Their Secretary is James Garrett who you can email via hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com

### **Highway Rangers**

It is regrettable that the Highway Rangers funding from Essex County Council has been cut. This means that the service will discontinue. The Highway Rangers were a partnership with the District Council. They carried out minor works around the district such as clearing paths, trimming vegetation on the side of the road and cleaning signs.

The Open Spaces committee are working on plans to pay for roof repairs and install a stone plaque for the Jubilee Shelter on Chapel Hill to mark King Charles III's Coronation.



### STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

*Clerk* Ruth Clifford, *Deputy Clerk* Emma Philbrick *Committee & Projects Officer* Laila Azure-Marxen *Communications Officer* Dan Schlanker *Email:* parishcouncil@stansted.net *Phone:* 01279 813214 Office Hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-2pm Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm *Website:* stansted.net *Facebook:* stansted.parishcouncil *Instagram:* stansted@parishcouncil *Twitter:* @StanstedMPC

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

April 5 Windmill 7pm / F&GP 8pm

April 12 Full Council

April 19 Emergency Planning 7pm, Open Spaces 8pmApril 26 Highways

### **PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Alan BARNES

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### ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Ray GOODING tel: 813103 email: cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk

### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA *tel:* 0207 219 1943 *email:* kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

### POLICE

Special Police Constable Steve Dale email: stephen.dale@essex.police.uk PCSO 81764 Alex Stewart email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk Non-urgent incidents call: 101 Serious indents call: 999 www.essex.police.uk/ro/report

### LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:Tuesday9am-1pmWednesday2pm-5.30pmThursday2pm-7pmSaturday9am-5pm

### GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

A refuse truck will be in the Lower Street Car Park from 12.30-4.30pm to recycle your garden waste on the following Sundays: April 2, April 16, April 30.

### VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators in yellow on the map are accessible 24/7. Call Emergency Services for an access code. Defibrillators in orange are only available during the working hours of the establishment they are sited at.



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# ARTIST MARK LAMBERTO'S STORY

Did you notice an exhibition in Jackson Square recently? Stansted resident Mark Lamberto, whose art exhibition had tremendous response, is a local artist with an inspirational story. His early artistry was strongly influenced by a friend who taught him graffiti. As a kid from London, he enjoyed playing guitar and diving. Full of teenage angst, he used art as a medium for expression, whilst studying to become an electrician. Experimenting with art from a spray-can, Mark found passion producing anti-establishment, shocking pieces, using paint and brush.



Mark was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) when he was 20. Initially losing use of his legs and developing MSassociated symptoms, he rejected traditional treatment in favour of holistic and natural therapies. By 30, he developed the shakes, as his MS was becoming increasingly aggressive. His search for a cure led him to ancestral Spain. Treatment there has helped him significantly, and he has since experienced vivid and colourful dreams. Inspired to use these in his work, Mark commits wild, evocative patterns to canvas: vibrant, hypnotic and starkly contrasting colours using sometimes gentle textures or undulating, harsh and violent brush strokes. "I have to teach myself to remember my dreams, so have to wake up and paint before I forget", he explains; "I am focusing on self and wellbeing, and a life of solitude allows me to find meaningful enjoyment through painting".

Mark's story illustrates the sheer strength and determination of human spirit. Not letting otherwise debilitating MS overcome him, he has instead turned negative to positive, creating captivating work pieces and realising his dreams. After his exhibition success, Mark is looking for opportunities to bring his work to a wider audience. If you are interested, please email him at anarchydog666@gmail.com.

> Greg Thompson Friend of Mark Email: greg465000@gmail.com



### STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



We were lucky to find a replacement Speaker, Chris Truran, in February when Teresa Buglass from the surgery was unable to come. A former Scene of Crimes Officer, Chris has previously spoken to us about his life in crime. On this visit he explained the impact digital and cyber-crime can have on all of us and gave us some useful advice. If you receive a phone call that you find difficult to understand, it is best to ask for an English-speaking person; if it is a genuine call this will be done. Always remember that banks will never telephone you about a problem with your account, so just put the phone down. If you leave it for a short while and then dial 159 this will take you to a secure line and you can check if this is a scam. He advised us to keep our credit and debit cards in a blocking wallet so that they cannot be cloned, which is apparently easy to do even if they are in a bag or in your pocket. Although he had a serious message to convey, he managed to be very entertaining.

Every WI member receives a copy of the national magazine *WI Life* eight times a year. This reflects the wide-ranging interest of all our members. The last issue had news of the campaign to protest at violence against women, accounts of members enjoying white water-rafting and an article from a member in New Zealand, who is working with her WI to raise suicide awareness and promote Mâori culture. All this as well as craft ideas, gardening tips and recipes of course. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre, speaker to be arranged. As always, we welcome visitors to our meetings.



### SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

The cold and dark days of the winter may be fading, but the importance of saving energy and money for householders remains, alongside the importance of saving our planet. This is where the Household Energy Saving Group of Sustainable Stansted can help; we provide tips to help householders save the energy they use, therefore saving money.

Our tips start with simple things that involve little or no cost e.g. turning down boiler and radiator thermostats, to more complex things like installing insulation, solar panels or heat pumps. These items cost more, but also provide bigger savings. We will provide more tips in the months ahead, so please look out for them.



One way you can do this is to follow Sustainable Stansted on Facebook. There are other resources that provide useful tips and guidance. The Consumer Association *Which?* website is a good example. Another recent one, with good and clear tips, is from the Government and can be found at www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk. We wish you success in saving energy, money and the planet, and would be pleased to hear how you get on. You can contact us using the email below.

> Bob Burlton Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com



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### **IN THE GARDEN**

April is the month of sowing and planting. Everything in the garden is bursting into life. After the snow in December and very cold days and nights through January and February, we are wondering how many of our plants have survived. Do not discard anything until next month and not before you are sure it has died.

### Seeds

Whichever seeds you wish to sow, read instructions carefully. Larger seeds are usually sown deeper than small ones; they sometimes need to be sown on top of the compost with a very light covering of compost or Vermiculite. A good quality compost is essential. A propagator, or windowsill where nighttime temperatures do not fall below the required temperature, will be required for germination. Clear polythene bags over small pots can help retain moisture and heat, but must be removed periodically when seedlings appear. Some varieties to sow: Marigolds, Antirrhinum, Busy Lizzie, Delphinium, Virginia Stock, Lettuce, Cucumber and, later in the month, Runner Beans, French Beans and Courgettes.



Cosmos: an annual delight easily grown from seed

### Tomatoes

Whether grown from seed or bought from a Garden Centre, your plants should be well established. They need protection until the last frosts have disappeared, usually by the end of May. Preparation of the planting area is essential whether they are grown in the greenhouse, open ground or in pots. Apply a general fertilizer like Growmore to the soil a week prior to planting; the soil should be well drained and humus-rich. At all stages of growth, the soil must be kept moist. Leaving plants to dry out and then soaking results in serious problems with the fruit splitting and can cause blossom end rot. All will need staking when the first flower truss has set and a soluble tomato fertiliser should be applied once a week. There is nothing better on a fine day than picking a crop which you have grown yourself.

> Susan Sedgbeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

We are looking forward to April, as the Gardens open for visitors on Thursdays 11.00am-3.00pm with last entry 2.00pm. and we have our first ever Tudor Day on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**. The volunteers have been working hard over winter on a range of projects so by April there should be a new path, a refreshed rill, more freshly planted trees and a new planting area behind the croquet lawn. The daffodils and cowslips will still be flowering; at the end of the month there will be bluebells and tulips. There will be the first roses, cherry blossom and lots of fresh green leaves; just some of the highlights to see in the Gardens in April.



Visitors to our Open Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 11.00am-5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm) will learn about the Tudor beginnings of the Easton Lodge house and estate. Henry Maynard was granted the estate by Elizabeth I in 1590, to add to the local lands he had already bought in Tilty. He subsequently bought land in Broxted and Great Easton. Maynard decided he wanted a large new Elizabethan house on the site of the existing hunting lodge, and so what was known as Easton Lodge was built. At the Open Day there will be a range of Tudor activities, including the *Merrie Folke* who will give a flavour of a Tudor St George's Day. Our archivist will display relevant records. Lots of fun to be had and very educational too! For more information please go to the What's On section of our website.

> Jill Goldsmith Tel: 07947 183439 Email: jillgoldsmith1@virginmedia.com

### **QUIZ ANSWERS**

- 1 The skin
- 2 Chester
- 3 Gangster
- 4 The Hague
- 5 10
- 6 Inverness
- 7 1930s, it was won by Uruguay
- 8 2000, Italy joined
- 9 Tea
- 10 2 miles
- 11 Douglas Bader
- 12 Crocodile
- Roger Daltry
   Tomato
- 14 Tom 15 Cat







As the weather becomes warmer, we look forward to an abundance of flowers offering food for bees, hoverflies and butterflies. A report by the Essex Wildlife Trust indicates that such sightings may be much reduced. During 2022, members of the Trust participated in the UK citizen science Bugs Matter Survey, recording 'bug splats' on vehicle number plates to monitor flying insect abundance. The numbers of insects recorded on 277 journeys across Essex suggested that insect numbers have declined by 60% since 2004. This is a worrying trend as it has implications for the survival of many other organisms. Most plants rely on insect pollinators to set seeds for wild and garden flowers and three quarters of our food crops. Many song-birds feed on insects, and seed eaters such as skylarks and house sparrows nourish their young on insects.



The reasons for this decline are complex, but as most arable crops are grown without any weeds this reduces the variety of food supplies for caterpillars, aphids and bugs. Fewer flowers means less food for bees, adult butterflies and moths. Fortunately, many insect species are resilient, and we can help with the survival of some. I encourage you to plant up your gardens with native hedgerow shrubs and trees. You could install a bug hotel which provides habitats where insects can over-winter. Accepting flowery lawns and planting a wide selection of flowers is not only attractive to us but provides nourishment for an abundance of insects too. There are many helpful guides to creating a wildlife garden; the RHS website is helpful as is Gardening for Wildlife by Adrian Thomas published by Bloomsbury in 2017. To get involved with the survey see www.buglife.org.uk. Visiting local gardens for helpful tips is fun too; see our website and find the What's On page.



Tricia Moxey Trustee Tel: 01277 364522



### STANSTED HELPLINE – THE FUTURE

Thanks to the success of the quiz night on 4<sup>th</sup> March the financial future of Helpline is looking brighter; there will be a full report in next month's Link. However, some members of the Committee have been there for a long time and are looking to step down. Our most pressing need is for a volunteer to take over the role of treasurer. The task involves compiling basic financial reports for Committee meetings approximately four times a year and issuing cheques to settle the few bills Helpline receives. Could you help?

We are also looking for new Committee members with fresh ideas to take Helpline forward. It need not be an onerous task; meetings are quite informal, and we are a small, friendly bunch. Please help us to ensure the future of this much used community service. Interested? Please call Anne Wilkinson on 647131 for more information.

Stansted Helpline Committee

### STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB



www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The 2023 season begins with a work party on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 10.30am. Members and non-members are welcome to our Stansted House ground. Indoor nets continue for both seniors and juniors but will end soon. The senior team has gained a couple of new members and local fixtures have been arranged for both Saturday (League) and Sunday (Friendlies). Junior fixtures are being arranged in the West Essex League. We will be playing at the following age groups; U9 Soft Ball festivals, U10 Soft Ball Terrier, U11 League, U12 Cup, U13 League, U14 Cup, U15 League and U16 Cup. All Stars Cricket covers all age groups for five to eight year olds. Boys and girls are very welcome; our six qualified coaches will be waiting for you. Enjoyment is the Club's priority. Younger age groups play on Friday evenings and older groups on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested in joining please see our website or contact me. Come on boys and girls give cricket a go; I feel that you may well enjoy it. Parents and grandparents - what a way to start the weekend: a cool drink watching the children enjoying themselves.

It will be a big summer for cricket this year as the Australians will be over playing for *The Ashes*. With England's cricketers doing really well under the leadership of Ben Stokes we may well regain the minute trophy.



David Brown Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663 Email: ddavid1.r.brown@gmail.com





www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

Stansted Junior Cricket Club - New Players welcome Our 2023 season will start with a registration evening at the Club on Monday 1st May at 6.00pm. The coaching at Hargrave Park (next to Stansted FC ground) will begin on Friday 5th May 6.00pm-7:30pm. Both boys and girls of all abilities, ages 6-11 are welcome to join. Our hardball coaching starts on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm-8.00pm.



The Club enters both an under 12s and under 13s team in the West Essex Youth Cup and League respectively. These matches are played on Sunday mornings and some midweek evenings. Stansted is a friendly family club, and each year has a presentation event at the end of the season with a BBQ and awards. Many of our older junior cricketers get the opportunity to play in the adult second team and later go on to become key players in the Club. Any parents who wish to help on any of the evenings will be welcomed; please contact us on the numbers below. More serious members or parents wanting to become qualified coaches are also invited to contact us; our junior cricket club (SJCC) may provide support. For more information please contact Keith Ayres, Head Coach Tel: 07768 023830 or Matt Cope, Coach Tel: 07877 481640.

> Robin Keck Tel: 07717 571791 Email: rkeck@hogarthdavieslloyd.com

### STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

Work is continuing in preparation of opening of the green on Saturday 29th April at 2.30pm; all are welcome.

### Date for your Diary

We are holding an Open day on Saturday 13th May 10.00am-4.00pm. Please call in and see us; we will have craft stalls, hot and cold refreshments as well as rolls and cakes on offer. It will be time to catch up with friends to enjoy a cuppa and to have a look around the green and maybe send a wood or two up the green. You are all very welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

> **Doreen Scraggs** Tel: 815036 or 07881 852833 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



### FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

Our First Team reach the end of the season looking to consolidate a final top ten finish to our league campaign. Although we have not reached the heights of the previous two seasons, this current crop of young players led by our Club captain Billy Coyne and experienced campaigners, Joe Clark and Tom Massey, have shown that our Club has a bright future and we look forward to another season, kicking off in late July. Off the field our average home attendance has again increased season on season, and we received our Club Accreditation Award from the FA which demonstrates that the Club is meeting all the requirements laid down by the FA in the National League System.

The Club Committee would also like to say a huge thank you publicly to our dedicated group of volunteers who prepare the pitches, sort out the kit, clean changing rooms, get players ready and organise refreshments for officials. We also thank the bar staff in our Clubhouse; without all their contributions the Club would not be in the position it is today. Lastly the team management and players wish to say thanks to our Airport Army of supporters who on match days give Hargrave Park a special atmosphere. Many of them also follow us to away games; they are so amazingly supportive. Although the first team games finish, our veterans and youth teams will still be playing in May so keep an eye out in our social media accounts to see the news on their final few games.

### ESL Premier Division April Fixtures at Hargrave Park v White Ensign

v Little Oakley

8 <sup>th</sup>	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	

3.00pm 3.00pm

> Tom Williams Secretary Tel: 07921 403842



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

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We are open for new members. See our website for more details. Various forms of coaching from beginners' group, cardio, juniors, improvers through to individual coaching are available at the Club; see www.olliestennis.co.uk or email Martyn Taplin mj.taplin@btinternet.com for further details.

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	Email: chair.494@rafac.mod.gov.uk	St John's Road and	Secretary: David Marchant
Beaver Scouts	Angela Madigan	Area Association	Email: david@marchant.com
Age 6-8	Tel: 01371 513028	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756	Stansted and District	Geoff Lay
	Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	Past Rotarians Club	Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Mob: 07881 852833 Home: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Prownies (Med)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Stansted Business	Iris Evans
Brownies (Wed)		Forum	Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted Cricket Club	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	(Adults)	Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Cub Scouts	Emma Croutcher	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Age 8-10½	Email: croutchere@gmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Hall and	David Brown
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Elsenham Cricket Club	Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020		Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
	Office Tel: 656085	Stansted Sparks	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Netball	Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Speed	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216	Watch	Email: vickersw@aol.com
	Email: rmbarrett54@gmail.com	Stansted Tennis Club	Debbie Lane Tel: 07870 971983 Email: debbieglane@gmail.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039		
	Email:	Talking Newpaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
	keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	The Hundred	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk		Email:hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Let's Talk, Stansted	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882
Mental Health Support	5		Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
	contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	5	Tel: 07833 089298
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Neighbourhood Watch		WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
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Group	Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk	Note: This list will be u	pdated as and when we learn of any
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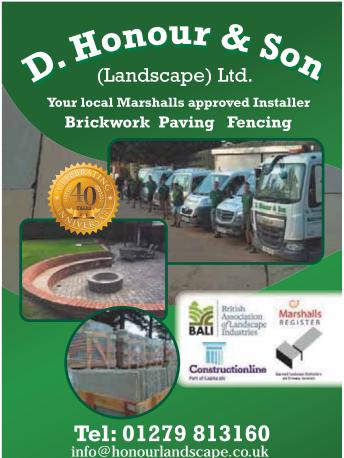






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