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Our front cover shows one of Stansted's Peacocks captured by **Emma Cox** winner of the Young Person's Photography Competition



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

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE** Please email [editor@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk) by noon on 9th of the month. Submissions should be in Word or typed into an email, maximum 300 words, and may be subject to editing. Please send photographs as separate jpg not embedded in documents. PDFs and posters are not accepted.

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## EDITORIAL



You may remember that Trevor Lloyd ran a Young Person's Photographic Competition recently. Competitors were not numerous, but the standard of photography was very high. The winning photograph is on our front cover this month, and what a totally stunning picture it is! So let us have a big shout out of warm congratulations to Emma Cox, who took the photograph. She is 16, and how talented she is already! Emma has captured the glorious colours and pattern to perfection. The lovely natural beauty of the bird together with her skills with a camera have combined to produce a truly artistic piece of work.

Continuing with the theme of clever young people, you will see below this editorial a very happy group of young women, clearly thoroughly enjoying their trip to AquaSplash. Five of them are hoping to be among the founding members of a new Ranger unit for girls; you will find details below. Many thanks to Mary, Danielle, Olly, Lily and Poppy for submitting this article; it certainly sounds challenging and fun, so I hope some of our readers (or their children) will be inspired to join them in this new venture.



### NEW MANUDEN RANGER PACK

At Manuden Guides a few of us have managed to finish our Gold awards, but still want to continue in the Girlguiding movement, so are hoping to start Manuden's brand new Ranger unit for girls aged 14 to 18. You don't need to have been to Rainbows, Brownies or Guides, or have any Girlguiding experience to join. We plan to meet at Manuden Village Community Centre on Tuesdays 7.00pm to 8.30pm.



Rangers is a chance to build your confidence, make new friends, develop important skills and be part of a team. We would participate in fun activities such as visiting AquaSplash as in the photo, and do interesting badges; be independent, and choose what we want to do. Plus we will go on exciting trips and have lots of adventures, making some amazing memories. We really hope you will join us.

Written by your local aspiring Rangers: Mary, Danielle, Olly, Lily and Poppy.



Glynis Prothero  
Tel: 814145 or 07835 717942  
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### u3a SATURDAY SEMINARS

[www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/events](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/events)

Georgina Ferry was the speaker at our June seminar on *Dorothy Hodgkin*, the only British woman ever to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Dorothy's groundbreaking work in crystallography and her commitment to humanity have left an indelible mark on the scientific community. From an early age, her fascination with natural and artificial patterns ignited a lifelong passion. She earned a degree in chemistry at Somerville College, Oxford and her fascination with X-rays of crystals led to a PhD at Cambridge. Her groundbreaking work shed light on the structure of insulin and penicillin. Born in 1910, she faced numerous obstacles in a scientific world dominated by men but she persevered, juggling professional pursuits with marriage and raising three children. She was awarded the Nobel prize for Chemistry in 1963, an exceptional feat for anyone, but especially for a woman at that time.

Our next seminar, with interactive discussion, is on **19<sup>th</sup> August**. Led by Patrick Parrinder, Emeritus Professor of English at Reading University and *H G Wells Society's* president, it is entitled *H G Wells: The Realist and the Dreamer*. Please email us for tickets; more details are on our website, where details about future seminars can also be found.

Sally Rich and Pauline Green  
Email: [stanstedseminars@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedseminars@gmail.com)

### STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street where we will be discussing *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. This Pulitzer Award winning novel set in Atlanta in the early 1900s is one of the most famous and powerful stories about the struggle of African-American women so it should make a very interesting read. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us, a warm welcome will await.



Anne Watson  
Tel: 898693  
Email: [stanstediswellread@gmail.com](mailto:stanstediswellread@gmail.com)





It has been the usual flurry of excitement and activity during the last few weeks of term. Year 6 ended their St Mary's experience with a smorgasbord of fun events, including a residential, hours of dodgeball and rounders, leavers' play, celebration assemblies, presents and a year 6 jolly. We wish them all well and are happy to wave them off onto the next stage of their educational adventure. Year 5 recently enjoyed a special visit to Essex Cricket Ground to watch Essex play Warwickshire: a reward for excellent behaviour during our school cricket lessons. During the lunch break our children were invited to try batting and fielding; judging by the amount of fours and sixes hit we have a stable of up-and-coming talented young cricketers. The professional cricketers were very kind to the children and happily signed autographs. It was a great day and we extend our thanks to ECG. Willow and Lilac class enjoyed a trip to Wimpole Farm. It was their first school trip and they were beautifully behaved. Years 1 and 2 had a special Memory Box day to tie in with this half term's topic of change, chronology and celebration.

Sports day on 7<sup>th</sup> July was a roaring success; Georgia Grover managed the whole day with her usual aplomb. We are so pleased to have had her on the staff for the past four years. She is leaving us to work and travel in Australia. During her time here she has risen from NQT to sports co-ordinator and has been Key Stage 1 phase leader recently. I would describe her as 'small but mighty.' We are hugely sorry to see her go and cannot wait for her to come and tell us about all her adventures.



Kara Power  
Acting Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

**MALCOLM TREACHER**

**5<sup>th</sup> October 1929–22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023**

There will be an interment of ashes service on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August** at 3.00pm in St Mary's Church, Stansted. Refreshments will be in church afterwards.

Lynda Dale  
Tel: 07716 099474

We are delighted to report that as of the end of July we had a record 1025 members. New membership continues to exceed all our expectations, so we hope we are going in the right direction. In conjunction with our partner Greene King, we have been invited to a VIP tour of their brewery in Bury St Edmunds on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August** to which all members are welcome, subject to availability.

We have entered the Stansted in Bloom and Anglia in Bloom competitions, hoping to do well. We trust you are enjoying the summer flower display outside the Club. In fact, whilst retaining our heritage, we are looking to move away from the social club 'stigma' to being a much bigger part of the Stansted community. Our entertainment for August starts on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** with *True Vybez Reggae Band* making a very welcome return. **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** sees *Elektrik Vinyl* knocking out your favourite 80s tunes. **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** sees the fabulous *Scam 69* back at the Club, and we round off August on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** with an amazing Bee Gees tribute band, *Staying Alive*.



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

**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
EVENING WI**



At our June meeting the speaker was Rev'd Nicholas Henderson and his talk was entitled *Great Mysteries and Conspiracy Theories*. Starting with the Bermuda Triangle where ships and aircraft are known to have gone missing, he discussed reasons for the disappearances ranging from being abducted by aliens, electronic fog which causes odd things to happen to electrical equipment, magnetic irregularities or a jelly hole in the ocean caused by methane gas. He also went on to talk about ghosts, how seeing is not always believing and demonstrating some optical illusions. It was an excellent talk and held the interest of everyone.

Disappointingly the performance of *Aspects of Love* which we had booked for September has been cancelled. The show ends in August, three months earlier than planned.

We have a new programme planned for our meetings in 2023–2024 with interesting speakers. The speaker for our meeting on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August** is Rex Freeman; the title of his talk is *Growing Old Disgracefully*, which will give us some ideas. We will be serving teas at the Windmill Fête on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August**, 1.00pm–5.00pm, so we look forward to seeing everyone then.

We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7.30pm, in the Day Centre, Crafton Green. We welcome visitors and new members to our meetings; do come along and join us.

Christine Morris  
Tel: 813661



## FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place is open every **Friday, including school holidays**, from 9.15am -11.30am in the Free Church Hall. Parents, carers, children and all age visitors are welcome to drop in and enjoy a relaxing hot drink and chat, while the children enjoy plenty of space to run around and play with the toys and listen to **Story Time** at around 10:30am.



Little ones enjoy the push-along toys, dressing-up is always popular, as well as puzzles, colouring and drawing. 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. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.

Sue Parker and Fran Richards  
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

We are pleased to have a wide range of topics and speakers for our forthcoming season and we invite you to join us if a topic appeals to you. Here are the ones coming up in the next few months:

7<sup>th</sup> September: Photographs of railway views from Stansted to Cambridge by Ralph Philips

5<sup>th</sup> October: The History of Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford by John Rhodes

2<sup>nd</sup> November: Recent local postcard acquisitions by Paul Embleton

7<sup>th</sup> December: our Christmas quiz with mulled wine and mince pies.

Meetings are at 7.30pm in the Crafton Green Centre, off Chapel Hill. Annual membership is £10, but visitors are always welcome and pay £2 per session, which includes coffee, tea and biscuits. We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers and look forward to seeing you. Please see our website for more information.

Roger Barrett  
Tel: 814218

Email: rmbartlett54@gmail.com



## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Our area is blessed with an exceptional number of museums, all open at this time of the year.

**Saffron Walden Museum** was purpose-built in 1835 and displays a real treasure trove of material relating to the local area.

**Imperial War Museum, Duxford** is enormous, displaying all kinds of wartime material including its own listed buildings from each World War, as well as many aeroplanes, both civilian and military.

**Great Dunmow Museum** is housed in a former maltings and encompasses displays about its former function as well as broader elements of Dunmow history.

**Forge Museum** in Much Hadham includes metal tools from the forge, while its own medieval wall paintings reveal an insight into Tudor fashion.

**The Henry Moore Studio and Gardens** shown below, includes an extensive outdoor display of the famous sculptor's large works and an indoor history of his life. The hamlet of Perry Green was his home for many years.



**Ashdon Village Museum** has an exceptional display of all aspects of local life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the bonus of an excellent tea room!

**The Toy Museum** is part of Mountfitchet Castle which is itself a popular destination for children who probably do not realise that this fun place is teaching them a lot about the history of Norman times.

**The 15<sup>th</sup>-century Guildhall** in Finchingfield incorporates a small collection of local history, presented with help of modern technology.

**A Cottage Museum** is in Great Bardfield, boasting a village cage, a former lock-up.

For further details, visit the attractions section of our website where you will also find information about the Fry Art Gallery, Linton Zoo, Hinxton watermill and several windmills. We are indeed blessed.



Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



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## Green Waste Skip Dates

Lower Street Car Park  
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

Aug 6th & 20th  
Sep 3rd & 17th

## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

6	Sun	St Mary's Church open	2 - 5 pm
6/20	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
8	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Wed	Link copy due in today	before noon
		Breast Cancer Cream Tea	Day Centre 2 pm
19	Sat	Garden Club Coach Outing	Meet at Day Centre 9 am
		Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		U3A Seminar	Free Church hall 9.30 am
20	Sun	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
26	Sat	M Treacher Internment	St Mary's Church 3 pm
28	Mon	Windmill Fête	Windmill and Rec 1 pm



## Cream Tea



2 pm - 4 pm

Wed 9th Aug

Day Centre - Crafton Green  
Raffle - Craft - Bring & Buy Stalls

Entry £5 All Welcome



## COACH OUTING

Green Island Gardens, Ardleigh

Courtesy of Fiona Edmond

Sat 19th Aug

Depart from the Day Centre at 9 am

Tickets £22 everyone welcome

Please call 07919 478144 or 816250

To advertise **your event** on this page of the September issue  
tel 814059 email: [events@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:events@stanstedlink.org.uk) **by 9th August**  
*Inclusion is subject to editorial decision & availability of space*



## Friends of St Mary's Church

3 pm Sat 26th Aug  
St Mary's Church

**Malcolm Treacher**  
**Internment of Ashes**

Followed by refreshments  
in the church. All welcome



3 pm Sat 2nd Sep

Gardens of St John's Church

**Brook Brass Quintet**

led by David Clewlow

An exciting mix of music  
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*No tickets, just join us on the lawn*  
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## Saturday Seminar

H G Wells

*The Realist and the Dreamer*

**Prof Patrick Parrinder**

9.30 am - 12.30 pm Sat 19th Aug

Free Church Hall

Tickets £7 Visitors welcome but  
u3a members take priority

Email: [stanstedseminars@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedseminars@gmail.com)



## Stansted Windmill ANNUAL FETE

1 - 5 pm Mon 28th Aug  
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Stalls ~ Teas ~ Cakes  
Face Painting ~ Teddy Parachuting

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## OPEN DAY

Sunday 20th August

11 am - 5 pm (last entry 4 pm)

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[www.ugleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.ugleyvillage.org.uk)

10 am - noon

Sat 19th Aug

Ugley Village Hall

*Meat ~ Fish*

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*Bread & Home Baking ~ Eggs*


*Honey ~ Skincare*

*Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts*

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## IN MEMORIAM

### SALLY MARGARET SMITH

28<sup>th</sup> April 1949-21<sup>st</sup> April 2023



Sally was born in Bishop's Stortford and moved to Takeley in 1951. She attended Takeley Primary School and then moved to Hadham Hall Senior School. During her time at school she joined the Girl Guides and also started her love of cricket by scoring for Takeley Cricket Club. She attended Harlow College and studied Home Economics. With this qualification she started her first job at Lesme Chocolate Factory in London but her desire to work locally saw Sally take up the rôle of Doctors' Receptionist at South Street Surgery in Bishop's Stortford.

After marrying Roy in 1973 she moved to Stansted. Motherhood followed and they had two children, Mark and Alison. With their children at school Sally involved herself in a wide range of interests in and around the village. She was a member of the Stansted Evening WI for over 40 years including time spent serving on the Committee and participating in countless trips, including to its spiritual home, Denman College. Her love of painting was fulfilled by membership of Stansted Art Group and more recently the Bishop's Stortford Art Society.

Cricket has been of interest to all the Smith family and Sally provided cricket teas for both Takeley and Stansted Hall cricket clubs. The family were members of Essex County Cricket Club and followed the team both home and away. Sally liked to travel and enjoyed cruises particularly in The Aegean and Mediterranean. Among her favourite trips were visits to Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Canada, America and New Zealand. Sally was a member of the Imperial War Museum and attended many Duxford Airshows where she enjoyed seeing the RAF Red Arrows and Typhoon Display Team. Her love of the RAF came from her father who flew as a navigator in Mosquitos at the end of the Second World War. Another interest of Sally's was stage musicals. She saw countless London West End shows including more than 20 visits to Les Misérables with her daughter Alison. At home Sally's love of crafts - embroidery, knitting and cross stitch - is exemplified by her work at a domestic level around the house. In 2010 Sally, supported by Roy, immersed herself in

the Stansted Mountfitchet Magna Carta Tapestry. As part of the Stansted Church Craft Group she made hundreds of items that were sold to raise funds for the local church. Many of you reading this will have examples of her work in your home.

As a much beloved mother and wife Sally loved being part of the family unit and enjoyed hosting birthdays and Christmas celebrations. The suddenness of her passing was a great shock and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

The Smith Family

## WE ARE ALL MADE OF STARDUST

[www.victoriathecelebrant.com](http://www.victoriathecelebrant.com)

No matter where we come from, we are united by the stars. The elements which make up our bodies, from the iron in our blood cells, to the calcium in our bones and the carbon in our DNA, were all originally created in the stars. Literally nothing would exist if it were not for these objects of stellar beauty; nuclear powerhouses forging atoms, creating elements and releasing minuscule gifts of life's building blocks when that star dies, sometimes as a result of a spectacular Supernova explosion. The process has been going on for billions of years; NASA reckons the universe is 13.7 billion years old, give or take 200 million years or so!

So we can thank the stars for everyone and everything that we love. In my work supporting bereaved families I have seen that some take comfort from the idea of our bodies returning to these elements after we die, of turning back to stardust. Because the light from stars takes so long to reach us, when we look up at the night sky we are literally looking back in time, a beautiful light shining from the past, in the same way in which we reflect on our memories of those no longer with us. The light from stars in *Orion's Belt* takes over 1000 years to reach us - how incredibly humbling.

There is a poem by Nikita Gill, which celebrates this in such a beautiful way, called *93 Percent Stardust*, and it is well worth a quick google. There is also a book called *No Matter What* by Debi Gliori, which is particularly helpful when talking to children about love, life, and loss. It has the most beautiful line *Love, like starlight, never dies*. Take care everyone.



Victoria  
Email: [victoria@victoriathecelebrant.com](mailto:victoria@victoriathecelebrant.com)

## HUW JOHNSON CLUB



The Club finished its summer term with a disco which was thoroughly enjoyed by all members and volunteers. We break during August and restart at the end of September. If anyone is interested in attending as a member or a volunteer, please do get in touch.

Ellen Brooks  
Tel: 07800 896516  
Email: [ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk)



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## SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

### Working with Local Businesses to Support a more Sustainable Stansted

Small and medium sized businesses produce a third of UK carbon emissions. All businesses have a huge contribution to make in reducing the carbon footprint of our community. They can do this by reducing their own energy use and waste and provide goods and services to their customers to help them to do the same, such as the refill barn shown in the photograph below. We work with Stansted businesses to help support and promote this activity.



As well as being critical for the future of our planet, working in a greener way can also bring demonstrable business benefits:

- Reducing energy use and wastage is not only good for the climate, it can also lead to significant reductions in costs
- Many large corporations are now asking their suppliers to demonstrate their commitment to work in a more sustainable way
- Around 70% of 16 to 25 year olds are extremely or very worried about the climate (study in the Lancet 2021). They are increasingly looking to buy services and products from businesses that show they are reducing their environmental impact
- Millennials and younger workers are driving a growing trend of climate quitting, seeking out a more environmentally friendly job (KPMG January 2023 research).

Our activities to support greener business in Stansted include:

- Helping individual businesses think through how they can reduce their carbon footprint
- Signposting to other sources of support such as environmental standards schemes
- Providing a local badge for use by businesses that have committed to working towards a greener and more sustainable Stansted.

If you own a local business and want to know more, please see our Sustainable Stansted Facebook page or email us.

Fiona Neathey  
Email: [sustainablestansted@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestansted@gmail.com)



## RECYCLING



A reminder that we can take the following for recycling: ink cartridges (**not** toners), dental products, blister packs, stamps, mobile phones, ipads and tablets (**not** laptops). Please make sure all personal data has been erased from ipads, mobiles and tablets. 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; please use a **separate** one for each category and do not mix toothbrushes with blister packs, for example. Donated items can be left in the boxes outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens.

The Free Church recycling project does not include laptops or printers but Cambridge Recycling Centre refurbish these items and donate them to schools and charities. They will collect items from you free of charge. Call 01223 473875 email: [sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk](mailto:sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk). I have recently heard that a company in Harlow offers the same thing. Call them on 898240 or visit their website [www.townstech.co.uk](http://www.townstech.co.uk).



Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

Email: [recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



[www.musicatstansted.co.uk](http://www.musicatstansted.co.uk)

Many readers will remember two years ago when we were still in partial lockdown and members of the *Brook Brass Quintet* gave a free impromptu concert in the gardens of St John's Church. Some of the quintet are shown in the photograph below. The concert was enjoyed by a delighted audience of all ages. Brook Brass is led by trumpeter David Clewlow, who had just moved to the area and generously persuaded his colleagues to come and perform for us.



They have volunteered to give us another concert on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** 3.00pm-4.00pm. There are no tickets, just stroll in and join us on the lawn. As previously, there will be a bucket collection for the musicians. Last time the music ranged from medieval Venice to the Pink Panther and Hungarian folk dances to African-American spirituals. We are expecting a similarly exciting mix this time and look forward to seeing many of you there.

Richard Allaway  
Tel: 815282

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## THE GREAT ESCAPE

### (Or was it?)

There are four of us girls: Lisa, Elaine, Bridget and me, Linda. All *detained* for want of a better word, in a hospital ward for one reason or another. None of us expected to be here after three days but here we are, all waiting for the doctor to come and discharge us. It's quiet for the time being and we are bored silly. We just want to go home. These ladies are the best company and we have all kept each other going, but there is only so much we can do; think we have exhausted *I spy*. We hear heavy footsteps.

Lisa whispers, "it's the doctor."

"Morning ladies and how are we today?" he asks in a chirpy voice.

"Well," said Lisa in her London accent, "as we're all going 'ome, we're 'appy."

"Oh no no no," says the Doctor, "you let me decide that", as he pulls the curtains round Lisa's bed. Have to say nothing is private here, we can hear everything that is said and done. Seems Lisa is staying another day. Next up is Elaine but she thinks she won't be going home due to blood issues, so isn't surprised when she has to stay as well. He walks straight past me to Bridget, obviously saving the best till last. Seems Bridget isn't going home either. Me next and I'm hopeful. After what seems a long time he says, "and you can stay as well; maybe tomorrow." "But you said that yesterday," I said tearfully. So, we are all upset to be staying, and need to do something to cheer ourselves up. Lisa comes up with "Let's break out of here."

After lunch she disappears for a while. "Look what I've found," she says proudly showing us a wheelchair. "Come on ladies let's go. Bridget, you get in the wheelchair and I'll push you; I think my back will hold out. Elaine you can use the Zimmer frame and Linda you use the crutches. Oh, and if anyone has money put it in your pocket, and be quiet whilst we escape."



There's nobody at the nurses' station so we slither as best we can past it. We manage to dodge the catering lady, but the physio almost sees us, so we hide in the doorway. We struggle to pull the door open and must look such a sight as we make our way down the corridor. Bridget has odd socks and no slippers, I have green surgical stockings and pink fluffy slippers, as does Elaine (who also apparently has her dressing gown stuck in the top of her pjs) and Lisa is bare-foot.

None of us have actually walked the length of the ward let alone anywhere else, so we're tired even before we reach the lift. However, the lift arrives and we shuffle in. Elaine stumbles onto the buttons so we end up in the basement with the cleaning stuff, tubes and heating pipes. So, we wait again for the lift which takes forever to come, and by now we are all really tired. We finally get to the correct floor but find that the coffee shop is at the end of a very long corridor with a lot of people hurrying about their business. By now I'm beginning to think we may have overdone it, our great escape, but the others are still up for it; and in need of cake and coffee. So upwards and onwards.

First stop the convenience shop, where we gather cakes and biscuits for later on. Now Bridget needs to spend a penny. I roll my eyes. She's had a hip replacement and needs a toilet frame and a high seat. We ask her to wait but she can't. As I have a card I'm paying whilst the others find the loo. I join the queue. "Wanna a bag for all that?" asks the till person. I look at it. "Think I need one. I can't carry all this with crutches, can I?" "Nah not really." She stuffs it all in a bag and hands it to me. I see a problem here as I can't carry the heavy bag, and cope with the crutches at the same time. I have to hang around until the others return. They have their own problems, as poor Bridget needs help but Lisa has a bad back so can't lift and Elaine can't let go of the Zimmer in case she falls, so Bridget will have to wait. They find me, and thankfully I'm able to put the bag onto the back of the wheelchair. I'm aware that people are looking at us and smiling. We just smile back and carry on to our next stop which is the coffee shop. We order two teas and two coffees which I pay for. Umm, hot drinks that we can't carry. We didn't think that one through. Right planning c...k up. We're now holding up the queue. They have run out of trays, but I don't think that would make any difference as we can't carry that either.

Luckily a knight in shining armour appears in the shape of Lisa's husband, Pete, who just popped in to surprise her, and is buying coffee. He thinks our predicament is funny, pointing out that Elaine is showing her bare bottom to everyone. No wonder everyone's smiling at us. By now we are all completely exhausted, so Pete whizzes Bridget back to the ward in the wheelchair for her wee, then comes back for Lisa, whilst myself and Elaine take a very slow walk back to the ward.

Later that afternoon the ward sister comes in. "Well ladies and where do think you were going earlier? I suggest a rest after your little escapade." The cake and biscuits were for a late-night feast, but we all slept so well none of us woke up; but they'll keep. But we're all going home tomorrow. Or are we? Oh well, at least we made someone's day, as our great escape was all caught on CCTV.

Hugh Jeffort  
u3a Creative Writing Group

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## STANSTED FIRE STATION

[www.essex-fire.gov.uk/locations/Station-83-Stansted](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/locations/Station-83-Stansted)

June and July have been busy months for the crew here, being mobilised to a whole raft of incidents, predominantly on the surrounding road networks and M11. The dry period has not yet led to the same conditions as last summer; however, the long-range weather forecast indicates that more heat is coming. As a service we have been training and preparing hard for these busy periods and we urge our residents and the wider public to be aware of the risks during the summer period. Please see the safety advice on our website, under *Stay Safe this Summer*.



We have been busy supporting the community when we can, attending various fêtes and summer events. It has been a joy to meet you all and speak about the importance of Home Fire Safety and wider safety advice. I know the crew especially enjoyed the hospitality given at Elsenham; a tray of cakes and cups of tea will always mean we are happy to attend and share stories of our fantastic roles in the community. Lastly, please remember that Home Fire Safety visits are free to any Essex resident and can be booked on our website. This is a Government and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service initiative to get a working smoke alarm in every residential dwelling, so please feel free to get in touch. Stay safe and best wishes from us all.

Steven Perry

Tel: 01376 575830

Email: [stanstead.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:stanstead.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk)

## WAR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

I would like to appeal again for a few more volunteers to do the War Memorial Flowers. I most sincerely thank the many long-standing volunteers very much indeed. Inevitably some older people have very reluctantly had to step down. It involves providing flowers for the two small pots on the Memorial for one week a year. Ideally, they should be topped up with water during the week as the pots are quite small and the weather is sometimes warm. This is to pay tribute to the people of the village who sacrificed their lives in the two World Wars. Thank you very much.



Janet Hollis

Tel: 812073

Email: [janhollis@btinternet.com](mailto:janhollis@btinternet.com)



## STANSTED SCOUTS IN NORFOLK

On a fabulous sunny June weekend, 30 Scouts and six leaders travelled up to Wells-next-the-Sea in Norfolk. We settled in and had a stroll down to the quayside to wear everyone out. After a cooked breakfast on Saturday, we set off on a hike covering the naturalist badge. Into the town and then off to the beach a mile away where we joined the Norfolk Coastal Path, and began walking west to Holkham Gap. We looked at the different pine trees and other plants (using a fabulous plant app) and found a toad happy to be passed around! We turned onto the beach at the Gap and stopped for lunch. It was here that several Scouts decided to bury their fellows in the sand; however we did manage to dig them all out. We made our way back along the beach and sand dunes to brightly painted beach huts where we found an excellent spot to have a dip in the sea pools, which were warming up nicely. A selection of shells was collected for identification as part of the badge and we left the beach and returned to the town. Back at our accommodation, we had an hour of R&R where some Scouts even had a shower! After our evening meal we chose *Wall-E* as our film, followed by a few songs sitting around our campfire. That night they slept!



Sunday and cooked breakfast done, it was down to the quayside for some excellent crabbing, as the crabs were loving our bacon. Most also looked around the shops and bought a few souvenirs. We then had a fish and chip lunch before tidying up and heading for home with another successful weekend behind us. Thanks to all for a really good time, especially the adults for giving up their weekend.

Mike Byrne

Scout Leader

Email: [stanstedscouts@hotmail.com](mailto:stanstedscouts@hotmail.com)

## CO-OP MEMBER PIONEERS

[www.cooperate.coop.co.uk](http://www.cooperate.coop.co.uk)

For those who do not know me, I am the new Co-op Member Pioneer for Stansted. Member Pioneers are *community connectors*, bringing together Co-op members, colleagues and local causes to make our community a better place to work, play, live and learn. I enjoy the work as I know it has made a difference to many people. For more details please contact me or see the Co-op website.

Maria Applebee

Email: [maria.applebee@coop.co.uk](mailto:maria.applebee@coop.co.uk)

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*Count your what .....*

Frustration when things just do not go quite to our own plans? Yes, those moments happen for all of us. I was on the motorway coming home from the airport. We stopped at a service station to get food, but on our return to the car we found the motorway shut down, and a two-hour long wait followed! Frustrated? To be fair, there was a lovely sense of camaraderie amongst all the drivers who got out of their cars to see what was happening. It could have been so much worse; a vehicle had caught fire further up, and lives might have been at risk.

Annoying? Yes, even in my own home things can be annoying. The dishwasher fails to clean things properly at the moment, so much so that I resort to washing things the old fashioned way. I mean, come on - that is annoying, right? Then I sit back, and reflect a little on both these true events. All the passengers I was responsible for got home safe and sound; how grateful I should be that I can drive a car and get from A to B, and back to A. Many people are not so fortunate. Even the dishwasher! Yes, annoying that it does not work properly, but many thousands of people are without enough food for their families, never mind dishes to eat it from that need cleaning.

So, retrospectively, I count my blessings. I do so because I believe my Heavenly Father loves the world and everyone in it, and only wants us to have a life full of meaning and joy. Jesus spoke about this too when he said: *"I came so that people can have real and eternal life, a greater and better life than they ever dreamed of"*. With that in mind, a few frustrations in the car or at home, are nothing! God bless you!

Major Alan Frederiksen  
The Salvation Army, Bishop's Stortford



**All enquiries:** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
**including Church** St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
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Thursday and Friday 10.00am-12.00  
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Email:  
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**Associate Priest** Rev'd Helen Flack  
Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

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

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

**Services** Family Communion (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) 9.30am  
Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
9.30am

### From St John's Registers May/June

<b>Baptism</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Summer Rainbow Barnes
<b>Funerals</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Sally Margaret Smith, age 73 - service at St John's followed by burial in St Mary's Churchyard
13 <sup>th</sup> June	Linda Pauline Wright, age 78 - service at St John's followed by burial in St Mary's Churchyard
23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Christine Carol Francis, age 71 - service at St John's followed by burial in Parish Cemetery



### STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

**Preachers for August**  
6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am John Buxton  
13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Elizabeth Stockdale



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

It has been a very busy time at church since my last Link report. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June was the wedding day of a lovely young couple; the first wedding here in over three decades. The church looked stunning and the perfume was amazing with all the wonderful flowers. The bells rang, the sun shone and everyone looked happy. We wish them a long and happy life together.



Later in the month, a swarm of bees at another Churches Conservation Trust church meant a very last minute change of venue. "Lynda, can you pull together a special Champing night for an anniversary?" came on a Thursday evening for a booking the next day. A table set up for a three-course meal with wine, flowers, fairy lights, chocolates and the appropriate bedding was quickly organised; a surprise for Ash's wife of 15 years. He had arranged childcare, found the wedding album and music without his wife knowing. Bringing a take-away from Brohman and ice cream from the Co-op, they let themselves into church. I saw them in the morning, and they said that they had a magical evening with the light coming in through the stained-glass windows. Happy memories were made and they hope to return with the children.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July was the first of two community churchyard work parties. We had an army of people including 1<sup>st</sup> Stansted Scouts, leaders and parents, local and district councillors, Alan, Sue, Peter and Steve all working so hard to prepare the churchyard for Anglia in Bloom. We achieved so much. My sincere thanks to all of you for all of your time and hard work. We are hoping for another award this year; I will let you all know.



Lynda Dale  
Chair  
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**Parish Priest** Fr Liam Hayes  
Tel: 01279 814 349  
Email: [frliamhayes@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:frliamhayes@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Parish Administrator** Clair Rava  
Tel: 816889  
Email: [stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**Masses**  
**Saturday** 5.00pm-5.30pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass  
**Sunday** 10.00am Mass

**Baptisms** By appointment

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



## QUAKERS

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE  
[www.stansted.quakermeeting.org](http://www.stansted.quakermeeting.org)

**Contact** Jonathan Morrell  
Tel: 07775 860379  
Email: [woldsouth3@gmail.com](mailto:woldsouth3@gmail.com)

**Lettings** Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207  
Email: [yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto: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<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.



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## HAPPY 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY



Wishing Brian Tremlett a very happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 6<sup>th</sup> August. With love from all his family and friends.

Samantha Dunn



## HATFIELD FOREST

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest)

As we approach the height of summer, we are all excited about the events we have on offer. There is something for everyone, whether it is hiring a boat for a relaxing row around the lake or attending one of our open-air theatres with performances for the whole family to enjoy. Our Wellness season offers morning and evening forest bathing, breathwork sessions as well as sunrise yoga, all taking place in the most beautiful and peaceful setting of the lake area. The forest is a fantastic place to just go for a walk and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. The historic grassy woodland rides are taking some time to recover from the wet winter so if you come across a diversion, please follow it, helping us to prevent further erosion and discover a new route. In the lake area, outdoor seating and toilet facilities are available and the café is open daily 9.00am-4.30pm throughout the summer, serving a seasonal takeaway menu including fresh sandwiches, savoury pastries, one-pots, homemade cakes, ice creams and hot and cold drinks.



Keep an eye on our social media and website for more information on our summer programme including the popular outdoor summer theatres. We hope to see you at one of our events and highlights; please go to the website when planning your visit.

Nick Jones

Email: [nickjones@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:nickjones@nationaltrust.org.uk)



[www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk](http://www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk)

### July Meeting

Taking advantage of the longer evenings, this meeting was a visit to the lovely garden at Pear Tree Cottage in Elder Street, Wimbish. Although the previous days witnessed the long-awaited and much needed rain, members and friends were blessed with dry weather. The Bayliss family moved into the cottage in 1995 and the garden then was a blank canvas. Over the years, with the help of their son, they have transformed it into a garden for all seasons with a very productive vegetable patch, chickens and an enormous mistletoe plant growing from an old apple tree. Photographs and a book showing how the garden has evolved over the years were available for all to see. Julie Bayliss described its transformation as *a lot of trial and error*. Last year was the first time they had nervously opened their garden for the National Garden Scheme and were surprised with the positive response they received. Backing onto fields, members were also able to watch the local barn owl undertaking its nightly search for food, a sight you do not see every day.



### Next Meeting

At our meeting on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 7.30pm** for 8.00pm in the Day Centre, Fiona Rose's talk will be *In the Garden with William Morris: Flora as Art*. Visitors are most welcome and pay just £5, which includes refreshments served prior to the talk.

### Green Bowl Photographic Competition

A reminder to members to take photographs of *Flowers in your garden* throughout the summer so that you can choose the best for displaying at our September meeting.

Maralyn Harris  
Chairman

Tel: 07919 478144

## LINK ADVERTISING

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[www.daisymaysfarm.org](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org)

Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside ... but it can be a major hassle getting there. Worry not, we have a beach! Come and see us, play in the sand and dip your toes in the stream to cool down. We also have our fabulous woodland campsite where you can stay overnight under canvas or in our caravan paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. Both options include entry to the farm so you can meet our lovely animals and their babies, all for just £25 a night and on your doorstep; please book via our website.



Check our Facebook page for upcoming events and exciting activities. We have a terrific safe area to play in, a picnic area, den building, a woodland trail to explore, themed crafts, refreshments, ice creams and of course, lots of animals to see. Most importantly, we are open every day 10.00am-4.00pm, so do come and see us. Entry is £5 (under 1's free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family with so much to do and see at the farm, and our animals just love seeing everyone. We cannot wait to welcome you. We are in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry  
Tel: 07747 787973



## ST CLARE HOSPICE

[www.stclarehospice.org.uk](http://www.stclarehospice.org.uk)

### Bereavement Cafés are here for you

St Clare Hospice runs ten free Bereavement Café groups which are open to all. We feel that some of the most meaningful support you may experience when you have been bereaved is through connecting with others who have had similar experiences. This project aims to connect people in order to support each other throughout grief. It is a community-led service for anyone, whether your loss was recent or a long time ago.

### Help the planet and the Hospice at the same time

Are you planning a clear out this summer? Our Charity Shops urgently need your help, and would really appreciate any donations of pre-loved goods. Please take items to the shop in South Street Bishop's Stortford.

### Are you feeling lonely?

People living with a serious, long-term or terminal illness, as well as the elderly, often struggle with loneliness and could do with some extra support. Our free *Compassionate Neighbours* service can really make a difference; trained volunteers who offer their time, companionship and support to people living in the community who are coping with serious illness or old age, all free of charge. Anyone in West Essex and East Hertfordshire who is feeling lonely or isolated, can access support from a Compassionate Neighbour. For more information please see our website.

Rebecca Day  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
Email: [rebecca.hedges@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.hedges@stclarehospice.org.uk)

## BRAIN TRAINING

[www.clareharding.com](http://www.clareharding.com)

### Straightening up the toes

Twisty toes and bunions hurt and weaken you, and their cause needs investigating. Good news, much work can be done to help straighten the toes again; it just requires persistence. One important muscle to strengthen is called *Abductor Hallucis*. It runs from the inside edge of the big toe straight to the heel bone. It pulls the big toe away from the other toes. How to get it to wake up? Start with whichever foot has the straighter toes. Place your fingers along its arch and try to move the big toe away from the other toes. The movement is in a straight line, the big toe does not lift or curl up. Hopefully your fingers will be able to feel the muscle stiffen up a bit. Maintain that contraction so you can tune into it.



Now turn to the other foot and do the same. It is normal for absolutely nothing to happen! You can try shouting 'Hello!' to the big toe and this snoozing muscle. Assuming nobody's home, do this: push the big toe upwards against some resistance (you may need a partner if reaching the feet is difficult) and hold the pressure for about five seconds. Then squeeze the big toe and the next toe together, using a finger pushed between the toes for resistance. Then press the big toe downwards, allowing it to curl. Now retry moving the big toe away. Usually this sequence helps activate the muscle. You will need to activate and strengthen the muscle daily for quite a while. You can try wearing soft yoga toe separators – or invest in a pair of Vibram Five Fingers. These will also help straighten the toes, but you will still need to activate the *Abductor Hallucii*.

Clare Harding  
Z-Health Master Practitioner  
Tel: 07802 872919

# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

*with news of the reopening of the Recreation Ground in July, the Foresthall Park traffic consultation, a round-up of progress on other highways measures for the village, the Stansted in Bloom's trail leaflet launch event, Councillor co-options and the Parish Council's response to the siting of a junction box at Five Acres*



## The Recreation Ground Reopening




The emergence of a sinkhole on the Recreation Ground in the days following the Coronation Event, held at the site on May 7, led to the Parish Council having to close the area to the public for health and safety reasons. It took eight weeks and the completion of two ground surveys before the Rec could be reopened to the public. Because the Rec is a highly valued and much used public open space, the Parish Council would like to clarify the reason for shutting down access to the site for this length of time and explain the significance of both surveys' results.

As soon as the first sinkhole was reported to the Parish Council, a decision was taken to close the ground off and commission a ground survey. Herts and Essex Site Investigations investigated the site and learned of two further holes at the Stansted Bowls Club. The specialist surveyor's report to the Parish Council suggested ground instability may exist across a wider area than just the initial sinkhole. The surveyor advised for the continued closure of the Recreation Ground while these concerns were investigated, supported by the Council's insurers.

Laser Surveys, one of only a handful of businesses qualified to perform a more thorough examination of the site, completed a deep ground radar penetrating survey at the Rec on June 22 and June 23. They reported back to the Parish Council with their results in the first week of July.

The Full Council considered the report's findings at a meeting on July 5 and, having received confirmation that the Council's insurers were happy, a decision was taken that it was safe for the Recreation Ground to be reopened to the public.

### **SURVEY FINDINGS**

The report by HESI indicated the unusually high footfall across the Rec on the day of the Coronation Event, added to the vibration from vehicles, music and the stage, may have affected ground stability. But there was no definitive corroboration of this in Laser Surveys' report, though its radar survey highlighted several small ground anomalies. Laser Surveys have advised the Parish Council to be mindful of the weight of vehicles it allows onto the Recreation Ground going forward. 



## Foresthall Park Consultation

In June a consultation on Foresthall Park got under way to explore residents' views on proposals to tackle problems such as airport parking, speeding drivers and dangerous parking. Over 750 survey leaflets were delivered by Parish Councillors to homes on the development. The survey also came in two digital formats — one posted on social media, the other uploaded to the Parish Council website. More than 162 residents sent in their views on the proposals before consultation ended on June 30.

The Foresthall Park working group is assessing the survey answers before it presents their recommendations to the Highways Sub-committee in October. Any recommendations will then go to the Full Council for their approval and, if appropriate, be put to the North Essex Parking Partnership this autumn.


## Highways Proposals: Slow Progress

It is a frustrating reality that years can pass for a highway proposal to become a reality — seven in the case of the pelican crossing on Lower Street which arrived in 2022. The list of parking and highway proposals for which the Parish Council awaits news is a long and growing one:

A post-election Essex County Council has blamed a lack of manpower for slow progress on its commitment to fill in a select number of potholes in our area. ECC's much mooted plan to re-route (and ban) HGVs remains much mooted with no obvious progress.

Meanwhile, the Local (Uttlesford) Highways Panel has set no installation date for the approved zebra crossing on Silver Street. Likewise, the panel has no update on if it will widen the footpaths of Cambridge and Church Roads. Nor has it news of requests for village twinning signs, and feasibility study for a "20 is Plenty" scheme in Walson Way and Hampton Road

The Parish Council can share that the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) has informed us it is to consider our proposals submitted in June for the introduction of red lines on the Mountfitchet Estate.

A few factors can slow a proposal's progress. For example, the NEPP sifts and prioritises proposals each October. But it sets a June deadline for new submissions to allow time for assessments to be made. Miss it and a proposal could sit aside for a year. And sometimes a scheme just disappears! 

*Proposals for red lines to be introduced on roads on the Mountfitchet Estate were submitted in June.*



## Trail Leaflet Relaunch



To mark the reprinting of the Village Trail leaflet and to raise funds for village charities, Stansted in Bloom (SiB) have organised a special event on Sunday 6th August from 2-5pm.

The event starts in the garden at the rear of "Savages" in Lower Street, where you can pick up a copy of the latest edition of the Village Trail leaflet. Cake and refreshments will be served, and from there you are invited to use the leaflet to set off on a walk around the village. Event organisers encourage you to have phones at the ready: The Linden have offered a prize of a meal for two for the best photo taken on the trail route.

SiB are suggesting a £5 donation to participate in the event. Your money will get you a trail leaflet, refreshments, entry to the windmill and access to a few other places of interest you may not have come across before. Village historians will also be on hand to answer your questions and shed light on some interesting historical artefacts. Proceeds will be shared between the Stansted Helpline, Touchpoint and The Stansted Millers. SiB would like to thank Murdoch's Estate Agents, AVS Motors and Stansted Social Club for sponsoring the leaflet reprint. *info:* [stanstedinbloom@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedinbloom@gmail.com)

## Call For W.I. Volunteers

Ahead of this year's Windmill Fête on August 28, the Women's Institute are asking for volunteers. They are particularly in need of spare pairs of hands to set up their stalls, tables and chairs. Volunteers are asked to contact Christine Hope: [stanstedhopes@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedhopes@gmail.com)

## Stansted Skatepark Jam

If this edition lands in your lap before the end of July, remember the Parish Council skatepark in the Lower Street car park will be hosting the highly popular Skatejam on Sunday, July 30 from 10.30am. An Ice-cream van will be on site along with I AM DUMPLING to fuel you up.

## Gigaclear Asked to Re-site Box



Gigaclear have been asked to re-site a junction box sited on the corner of Five Acres. The land is managed by the Parish Council. No permission was sought by the broadband installer prior to locating the box at this site.

“Gigaclear went ahead, without further consultation, and planted it on our land without permission,” says Finance and General Purposes Chair John O’Brien. “This resulted in an eyesore and a loss of amenity for the community in a restful spot, despite it being close to a busy road.”

Gigaclear has acknowledged its error. Their mitigations efforts have been rejected by the Parish Council. Instead of planting a screen of shrubs and repainting the box green, the Parish Council has asked for financial compensation for a loss of amenity and a failure to consult. Gigaclear have also been asked to re-site the box to behind the bench (see image).


## Councillor Co-options

Three individuals answered last month’s call in these pages to step up and become Parish Councillors. The Full Council discussed the merits of two of the applicants at a July meeting and voted to co-opt them to the chamber.

Tom van de Bilt, has previously served on the Parish Council from 2019-21 but stepped down due to work commitments. His work as a bid writer and project manager now allows for home working and the time to devote to life as a Parish Councillor. Like Tom, Sanjukta Ghosh is a resident of the village with strong local ties. The School of Oriental and African Studies historian is particularly proud of her voluntary work for the Stansted Pilots former youth organisation, and is a keen champion of diversity. Sanjukta looks forward to developing green spaces in Stansted and opportunities for sustainable development. Discussion of the third candidate was deferred as they had to manage an urgent family matter.

Having a Full Council chamber helps share duties and responsibilities across the Parish Council’s 14 committees and working groups.

## Youth Council

Closer ties between the Parish Council and Forest Hall School are helping grow the Youth Council. The school has encouraged two of its pupils to sign up to the body, with a potential third to follow suit, while students studying Citizenship are to be invited to participate, too. The Parish Council is now just two shy of its target membership of six. Achieving this goal will allow the Youth Council to be fully constituted. The Parish Council has arranged for youth members to visit the Houses of Parliament, along with students visiting from Rungis, later in the year. 

## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS

Councils run a scheme called Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) that is designed to help the most vulnerable in our community. The cost of the scheme is born by each Council Tax preceptor (Essex County Council, UDC, town and parish councils, Essex Police & Fire) pro-rata to their Council Tax receipts.

Uttlesford District Council are proposing for 2024/25 to maintain the scheme on the same basis as in 2023/24. This means they will:

- keep the contribution rate at 12.5% for 2024/25
- continue to protect pensioners, vulnerable and disabled residents and their carers on a low income

The District Council would like your views on their plans for LCTS in 2024/25. You can do so by requesting a paper copy of the questionnaire (01799 510510), or if you are online you can email comments to [consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@uttlesford.gov.uk). The closing date for the consultation is Monday, September 4.

In the meantime, if you are struggling with rising bills and housing payments, UDC encourages you to check out its Cost of Living Support Fund. It targets support for Uttlesford residents who may be struggling to pay their council tax. This scheme is on an application basis only. Eligible households awards will be determined up to the total of the Council Tax liability, or lower dependent on financial circumstances, for the 2023/2024 financial year (1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024).

To find out if you qualify and to make an application for assistance head online to <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/cost-of-living-support-fund>



## Rural Crime Survey

Local MP (and Secretary of State for International Trade Kemi Badenoch) is asking for your views on rural crime and how it affects you: “Too often rural crime goes unreported, and we need accurate information to reduce crime in our area.” She invites you to take a few minutes to complete her survey on the issue. Kemi says she will report back on the results of this survey and work with the local police and authorities to ensure our area is a safe place for all of us info: <https://www.kemibadenoch.org.uk/kemibadenoch-mp-rural-crime-survey-2023>



# STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings start at 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange, unless indicated otherwise below. If you wish to attend virtually, look for Zoom details in agenda documents on our website. There are no meetings for our committees in August due to the summer recess.

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## POLICE

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Meet-Ups: Stansted Co-op, 3-4pm **Friday, August 11**

## LIBRARY

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

## ADVICE SESSIONS

*Uttlesford Citizen's Advice* run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 9.30am-2pm. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during Parish Council reception hours via computer hook-up. Ask at reception for details.  
The Peabody Trust run a drop-in service on the first Thursday of each month from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with Benefits problems, housing issues, access to job training, and offer support to overcome addiction: **Aug 3**

## 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: **August 20**

## Village Defibrillators

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



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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

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At our June meeting Ian Keable gave an interesting talk on *Political cartoons from William Hogarth to Private Eye*. This was followed by the Annual General Meeting where a new constitution was formally adopted and will be forwarded for approval to the Third Age Trust. Warm thanks were expressed to Lynda Webb, stepping down as Membership Secretary, for the magnificent work she has done over the last three years. The membership approved the following appointments: Pauline Green Vice-chair, Alison Garrard Membership Secretary, Gaynor Mordcovich Group Co-ordinator and Deputy Treasurer. We welcome them to the Committee.

The garden group enjoyed a warm sunny June visit to National Garden Scheme Garden's *Bassetts* at Little Baddow, a two-acre mature garden on rising ground with distant views over farmland and the Essex countryside. Over the next three months the philosophy group, which meets twice monthly, is looking at Eastern philosophers including Gayatri Sprivak, Gu Su, Amartya Sen, Lao Tau and Byang Chul Han. Contact me if you are interested in joining the group. Our monthly meetings always include free tea and coffee, and the next one is on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August** 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St John's Church Hall, when Tony Earle will be talking about *The Work of Charity Shops*.



Anne White  
Tel: 07874 385541

## THE AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

[www.essexwt.org.uk](http://www.essexwt.org.uk)

As summer settles on the reserve the trees are in full leaf, creating a green canopy full of young birds, many of which are still being fed by their parents. You will hear the contact calls between birds as the family group moves through the trees. In summer they are more difficult to see but some are still singing to maintain territories, among them blackcap, chiff chaff and song thrush. We have a good variety of trees including rare black poplar and some fine specimens of elm. Many of the trees date back to the reserve's origins as a private wildlife park and are starting to show their age. This year it has been necessary to fell some trees that were in danger of falling across the paths. Wherever possible we do leave trees to die back naturally, as standing dead wood and fallen trees are valuable habitats for wildlife. Recently the volunteers who maintain the reserves for Essex Wildlife Trust in Uttlesford have been

busy removing Himalayan balsam, an invasive species that would take over large areas of the reserve if left unchecked.

In the open areas of the reserve we look to maintain a meadow environment by removing the vegetation each autumn so that soil nutrition is kept low, favouring the wild flowers. Look out for meadow sweet, common spotted orchids and you can even see some wild strawberries unless the birds have got there first. As you look for the flowers and other wildlife, we ask you to please keep to the paths to avoid trampling the plants, and ensure dogs are kept under control so that they do not disturb the ground nesting and feeding birds. You can find more information about this and the other reserves managed by the Trust on our website.

John Welham  
Warden

Email: [communications@essexwt.org.uk](mailto:communications@essexwt.org.uk)

## IN THE GARDEN

Use this month as a time for reflection. Look at your garden and ask yourself whether a different planting scheme will give a better display of flowers next year, bearing in mind the weather conditions we seem to be experiencing. There may be a plant that you have seen which you would like to grow in your garden. Before buying, however, always find out what that plant requires – soil, sun, shade – and whether you have the right position for it. It is worth writing a journal, making a note of the plants in your garden and what they require with regard to pruning, feeding etc. The first flush of roses has been and gone. Continue to dead-head to encourage new blooms to form, using shears. This is especially advantageous for ramblers and climbing roses. Always feed, water and mulch afterwards, giving them the advantage to flower again, although most ramblers will only bloom once. Cut wisterias back to five shoots. By now their laterals will have extended several feet. Only keep those that you require to be tied in to the main framework.



Let us hope that ponds are teeming with frogs, newts and dragonflies. Over the last few months some ponds have developed a green tinge to them which could be a result of sun and/or not enough oxygenating plants. The lily leaves should be more prolific now and will help cover the water with a good cluster of flowers. Most of all, sit back and take time to enjoy your garden. Too often we forget to do this and although the act of gardening is both mentally and physically good for our health, there should also be pleasure attached to sitting and immersing yourself in the joy of just being.

u3a Garden Group Members

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In August the Gardens are often at their most tranquil, with volunteers and visitors slowing their pace and taking time to relax and enjoy the flowers, butterflies and bees, and taking away freshly picked garden produce. In the spring and early summer, insect numbers have been down; but we are ever optimistic that with the rain will bring out the flowers, more will hatch out or cross the channel. Hopefully the first Painted Lady we saw on 6<sup>th</sup> July was the outrider with more following in its wake! Our kitchen garden vegetables are growing strongly, so there should be lots available for visitors to buy. What more could we all want?



Open Thursdays throughout the school holidays are good value for families as there is no entry fee for under 16s and visitors are welcome to bring picnics and dogs on leads. In addition, we offer drinks and our tasty homemade cakes. Our **20<sup>th</sup> August** Open Day should be great fun. We will have the *Great Dunmow Rock Choir* with us for the first time since Covid. Their brand opens up singing for everyone and may even offer the opportunity to go with the group to the *Edinburgh Fringe* and other such festivals. It is great that they have found time to come and sing at the gardens. Our archivists will be focusing on gardeners' stories from the Countess' day to the present. If you have stories to bring us, please do.

Entry details: Thursdays 11.00am-3.00pm, last entry 2.00pm. Entry £5 on the Gate. Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 11.00am-5.00pm, last entry 4.00pm. Tickets £6.50 on the Gate, £5.50 in advance via our website or through [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)

Jill Goldsmith  
Tel: 07947 183439  
Email: [jillgoldsmith@virginmedia.colm](mailto:jillgoldsmith@virginmedia.colm)

A reminder of the Mill Fête on Bank Holiday **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August** 1.00pm-5.00pm. The event, with its famous barbecue, has long been a village tradition, but in recent years has become more ambitious with a wider range of attractions for the whole family, and the addition of a great selection of inflatables and Robbie the Land Train on the Rec. The traditional stalls, including face painters, will still be round the mill and on Mill Fields. In response to comments about long queues for ice creams last year, we have booked an additional van. We are still investigating ways of accepting electronic payments but in case we cannot find a viable method, please bring cash as usual. Wristbands costing £7.50 give unlimited access to the inflatables; handstamps are £2.50 for which you can have as many rides on the train as you can manage! We still need help for the following and would love to hear from you.

- anyone willing to help set up, run a stall or clear up
- groups or businesses who would like a stall
- businesses interested in sponsoring the attractions
- anyone who would like to donate a raffle prize.

If you have bric-à-brac or books to donate, please bring them to the mill on the afternoon of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August or on the morning of the fête. Thank you.

Trevor Lloyd  
Tel: 810805  
Email: [info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk](mailto:info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk)

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draw:

£100	No 99	John Bone
£ 50	No 68	Kathleen Clark
£ 25	No 112	James Pettinelli

The draw for August will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> August in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number 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 £2500 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  
Email: [jean733@btinternet.com](mailto:jean733@btinternet.com)



## BREAST CANCER NOW

We are holding a fundraising cream tea on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August** 2.00pm-4.00pm in the Day Centre, for this registered charity. Breast cancer is close to people's hearts, as we all know someone who is, or has been, affected by the disease. There will be lovely scones, cakes and tea galore, as well as a raffle, craft and bring-and-buy stalls. Entry is £5 and all are very welcome; do join us.

Christine Morris  
Tel: 813661



# Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

“Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once.” These are not my words, but taken from that handy bowler from Stratford. These inspiring words have now reached the grassroots of the game at our Club. There is confidence oozing from the Club, although I must admit that the unbeaten early season win machines are but a distant memory. Since our last report, the 1s have won at Hatfield Heath, crushed North Weald at home before being clobbered by Potter Street (away) and Willingale (home). Our beloved 2s always feel a little uncomfortable when we are not getting beaten fairly regularly so defeats to Matching Green and Stansted Hall (both away) and Thorley (home) before a notable triumph at Thundridge (away) have brought the Club back to a mid-table position. “Any star performances?” I hear you cry.



Step forward Christopher Allen, undeterred from the ever louder knocking of a large door with 60 on it, he has blasted two unbeaten centuries with the latter making up 62% of our score. Adrian Pask scored an explosive century at home to Thorley although we still managed to lose. New face Matt Stevens has been a tonic and his 82 not out plus some lovely bowling performances has made him a key player for the 1s. Notable bowling from the fresh-faced Oscar Clark who took four wickets cheaply recently during an otherwise rather forgettable match!

Big shout out this month to our generous sponsors, Russell Properties and Belcom. Also, the Dog and Duck pub, A.L Woolf (Plumbing & Heating), Livewire Academy (Music School) and Great Back (chiropractors). As always, I will sign off by asking any potential players to contact Ben Sammons on 07852 510330. You will be made very welcome regardless of skill level.



Robin Keck  
Treasurer  
Tel: 07717 571791  
Email: rkeck@hogarthdaviessloyd.com



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The First Team kick off a new season this month after the shocking news from the Football Association (FA) that, after competing in the Essex Senior League for the past 53 seasons, we have been laterally moved to play in the Spartan South Midlands League Premier Division. We appealed to the FA on the grounds of the additional travel time to away games and the potential loss of revenue to the Club. Unfortunately, during the hearing it became obvious that the FA consider maintaining the integrity of the National League System to be more important than the financial stability of clubs at our level, and our appeal was rejected. Therefore there will be no local derbies against Saffron Walden or Takeley which are our highest generating revenue games in a season and we kick off the season not knowing how to plan both on and off the field. Our team managers have been trying to rebuild a squad of players, replacing those who could not commit to the additional travelling. On the positive side the Spartan League Committee have been most gracious in welcoming us to their league and have said they will try to accommodate fixture scheduling where they can. In the meantime, could all our supporters please keep an eye out for fixture details as these are yet to be released?



Our U14s competed in a tournament in Barcelona during the close season. The team did the Club proud, making it to the final where they played Spanish side SD Salou. Unfortunately they lost on the dreaded penalty shoot-out 4-5; however it was a terrific experience for the team. Our picture shows the team after they received their runners-up medals. This article was written before the FA Cup and FA Vase draw was made for the August games so please see our social media sites for details when known.



Tom Williams  
Secretary  
Tel: 07921 403842





[www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)

### Ladies Doubles Tournament

Ten women braved the heat on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, in the latest one-day tournament at the Club. The eventual winners were Cathy Brenner and Caroline Crossley who beat Diane Brown and Sue Simpson 3–6. Many thanks to Louise Chalk for organising such an enjoyable day. We hold many tournaments throughout the year for ladies, men, mixed and juniors and we also have several teams playing in the local leagues. If you would like to join, please go to our membership page on our website for further details.



### Club Sessions

Sunday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Wednesday evenings; men's club nights first Monday of the month, ladies' nights second and fourth Monday. Non-members welcome, £2 visitor's fee.

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Adults try-out sessions, Sundays 9.00am-10.00am. Visitors welcome, £2 fee.

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## STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

The season seems to be rushing by. Members are now playing the inter-club competitions and we wish them every success. A big thank you to Terry for carrying out all the garden work; the displays are wonderful. The 'B Team have their last game on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August against Stebbing and we hope that all will go well. Congratulations to Brenda and Lorna for all their efforts in the County Competitions. Ladies' friendlies and the Friday League are doing well. Seniors have played eight games so far and have 20 points.

### August Weekend Friendlies

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Elsenham at home  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm Dunmow at home  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Bp's Stortford Cooper Cup at home

We hope to have a stall at the Windmill Fête on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August please come along and see us. Visitors are always welcome at home matches; come and see what it is all about.

Doreen Scraggs

Hon Secretary

Tel: 07881 852833 or 815036

Email: [doreenscraggs@talktalk.net](mailto:doreenscraggs@talktalk.net)



## STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

[www.shcc.hitscricket.com](http://www.shcc.hitscricket.com)

The Ashes have been a very controversial and exciting series so far. Is cricket the winner though? Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI have had an excellent first half of the season in the Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) premier division. Currently they are 2<sup>nd</sup>, having won six of the last seven matches. In particular Rory McGurk and Nick Price have been in fine form with the bat, and the bowlers have consistently taken wickets. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have done even better; in Division 3 they are undefeated and top of the league. Encouragingly that team, led by Andrew Mackenzie, has some very promising youngsters performing well with both bat and ball. The junior section continues to thrive. The U14s have reached the WEDCB U14 Cup Final which will be played later in the season. All other age groups are enjoying playing matches at both Stansted House and Molehill Green. Our young cricketers are improving all the time with match practice. A cricket camp runs during the school holidays, culminating in the junior presentation day. Winter nets are already being organised by the club coaches.

The Club were very saddened to hear of the death of Christina Clark who kindly allowed the club to play at Elsenham Place for a few seasons.



David Brown

Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663

Email: [david1.r.brown@gmail.com](mailto:david1.r.brown@gmail.com)

## WIMBLEDON AT THE STATION

Our thanks to Ken McDonald who kindly sent this photograph of our wonderful local station, bedecked with memorabilia for the July Wimbledon fortnight.

The staff at our station certainly know to celebrate national events in style, such as the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and this year's Coronation. If these creative railway people are replaced by ticket machines, it will be a very sad day in the village.

Ed.





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Neighbourhood Watch	Linz Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/ 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734		

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

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