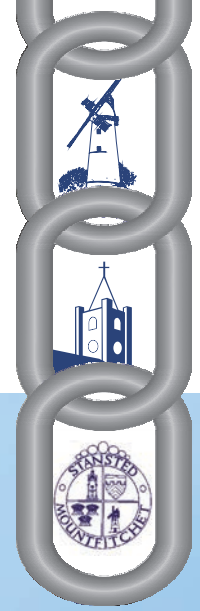


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**Our front cover shows  
Stansted Scouts at the ESSA  
Water Activities Centre, Nazeing**

**Photo by Mark Presland**

**Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography**

**Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine**

**The Link**

**www.stanstedlink.org.uk**

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

If you do not receive your copy please email: [distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk) or telephone 813680

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WHICH COVERS DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

Please email [editor@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk) by noon on **9th November**. 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.

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**Stansted network** is compiled and financed by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. Stansted Link is printed by CZ Design and Print.

## EDITORIAL



We are so happy to feature a photograph of young people on our front cover again this month; this time it comes from the local Scout group. We receive regular articles from the Scout group and it always looks as if they are having huge fun. The many local adults who give their time to run this type of organisation, like Mike Byrne and Mark Presland, are to be warmly applauded for enabling youngsters to have this sort of adventure.

Several local organisations earned Gold awards for Community Participation from the Anglia in Bloom judges and the Social Club's stunning floral display merited a Gold award for the best Pub/Restaurant across the whole of East Anglia! Friends of St Mary's were also delighted to receive a Silver award for their churchyard project. Details of these wonderful achievements are given on p 21 of the Stansted Network section of this issue. The Link team extends its warmest congratulations to all of those local groups and especially to the Social Club. You may recall that part of their floral display featured as the front cover of our September magazine. For details of the Remembrance Services at St John's Church, please see p 20, again in the Stansted Network section. Drivers will need to note the information about traffic management that morning.



RSPB

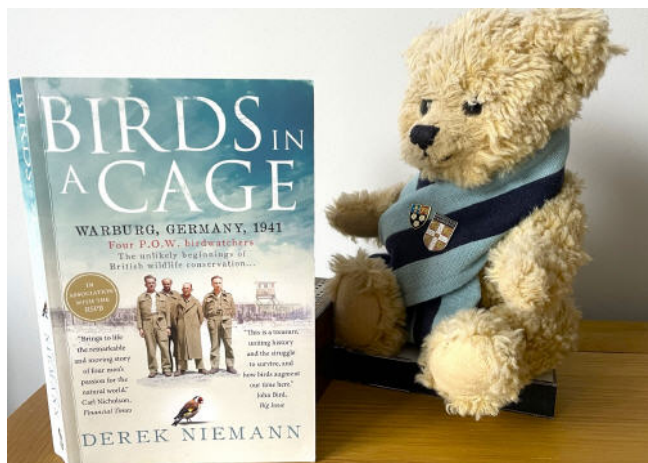
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ST MARY'S SCHOOL

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



Our monthly activities commence on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** with a midweek sociable local bird walk. This walk is based on the Bishop's Stortford Footpaths Association booklet *Walks in Herts and Essex* Volume 4. We plan to meet at Broxton Village Hall at 10.00am and walk in an easterly direction to Tilty Church before returning via Brick End. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre next to Tesco. We welcome Derek Niemann who is the author of *Birds in a Cage*, the true and inspiring story of four young men who were taken prisoner in WWII. As prisoners they still managed to carry out amazingly scientific studies of birds with virtually no equipment. Post-war all four went on to become famous for their conservation work with one becoming a Director of the RSPB.



To conclude the month on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November** we have a visit to Essex Wildlife Trust Fingringhoe Wick, Colchester CO5 7DN. Set in a spectacular position overlooking the Colne Estuary with a wide range of habitats, this reserve offers something different in each season and is always a most enjoyable place to visit. Contact us for full details of all our activities.

Peter Allen  
Tel: 07876 295456  
Email: [peter2349@sky.com](mailto:peter2349@sky.com)

It has been a typically busy and bustling first half term at school with lots of events and activities. We held two prospective parent days for new starters in 2024 and these were very well attended. If you would like to come and look around our happy school please see contact details below. You may have noticed exciting changes to our roof; as part of the *Solar for Schools* project we were lucky enough to be chosen. Our multiple panels have been installed and we have already started generating our own electricity.

Harvest Festival was celebrated with an abundance of food donated from pupils which was delivered to Uttlesford Foodbank. Willow and Lilac class shared their version of *The Dingly Dangly Scarecrow*, and Key Stage 1 sang *Thank you for the World* with British Sign Language. Lower Key Stage 2 read descriptive poems about harvest and our oldest children performed a thought-provoking poem about Mr Want and Mr Need and displayed some beautiful artwork. We also held a non-uniform day to fundraise for the *Abilities in Me Foundation*. They write children's stories based on real children with a range of conditions. We raised over £180 which will pay for a set of the books for school and also support other Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) projects.

We have recently become aware of a fantastic new resource for children with autism. The *Peer Education Programme* is run with Autism Central, by families, for families. They provide online information sessions about autism such as *anxiety, sensory needs, back to school support* as well as fortnightly informal drop-in sessions. Please visit [www.autismcentral.org.uk](http://www.autismcentral.org.uk) for more information or to book onto a group session. Their peer educators also provide one-to-one support; search 'Peer Education Programme Essex' and select the first search result.

Kara Power  
Acting Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

It has been a brilliant first half term, and I am enormously proud of how well all our pupils have settled into their new classes. It has been an especially enjoyable start for our Year 5 and Year 6 classes who have both attended their respective residential visits. This is the first year we have decided to hold our overnight trips at the start of the year, not only because summer term can become so busy, but also as it provides the opportunity for children to start the year bonding through teamwork activities, and for their new class teachers to see what they are like out of the classroom.

Year 6 have successfully completed their four-day residential trip to Bawdsey Manor in Suffolk, where they took part in activities such as abseiling, zip wire, challenge course, rifle shooting, fencing, giant swing, raft building and kayaking and, of course, the obligatory campfire and disco sessions during the evening! It was lovely to be able to join them myself, and I was enormously impressed with their behaviour, independence and resilience throughout the trip. Our Year 5 class spent three days at Gilwell Park taking part in grass sledging, fire lighting, backwoods cooking, aero ball, 3G swing, archery, climbing and sensory trail.



They too were fantastically behaved and exemplified superb co-operation and teamwork. Not only would I like to say well done to both these classes, I would also like to say a huge thank you to our Year 5 and 6 staff members for giving up their time to provide this worthwhile experience for them.

David Rogers  
Headteacher  
Tel: 813626



## UGLEY VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

We are having another coffee morning on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November** 10.00am-noon. Come and have a relaxing morning before the Christmas rush with 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



## STANSTED SCOUTS

On the hottest day of the year our Scouts went back to the ESSA Water Activities Centre in Nazeing for another sailing session. However, due to the hot weather there was no wind at all so the sailing was off. Swapping it for paddle boarding proved a big hit and after two x 45-minute sessions the Scouts were very proficient.



The usual jumping off the jetty followed which was a great way to cool down. The centre said what a polite group of Scouts we had, which is always great to hear. Well done guys.

Mark Presland  
Scout Leader  
Email: stanstedscouts@hotmail.co.uk

## BIRCHANGER C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL



Having taken over from Ms Berry as Headteacher I feel very excited and privileged to be leading this wonderful school. The pupils, staff and our school community have come back with a bang and the school really does mirror our vision of *Life in all its fullness* (John 10:10). This term we have been busily implementing the four Birchanger Bs: Believing, Being My Best, Being Creative and Belonging, which incorporate our school values and vision for the school going forward.

Our rewards in the school echo our values, and in conjunction with the Headteacher's Awards, the children have also enjoyed being nominated for a *Bee Kind* award whereby they receive privileges for the week such as comfy chairs and cushions in assembly whilst they wear their *Bee Boppers*. It has also been exciting electing our Year 6 leaders throughout the school, including the Head Girl and Head Boy, Sports Captains and our four school councils for each B. The children have loved standing up in assembly and receiving their badges and are excited to start their positions of responsibility. The Year 6s have already been amazing in their roles as buddies to the new reception children, who have been shining stars in Bluebell class. Here is to a great year at Birchanger!

Sharon Vessey  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812362



## DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

What a fantastic year this has been for us and the best bit has been having all our lovely visitors come and see us on the farm. We are starting to get very excited about Christmas and really hope you will be joining us for the festivities this year; there will be so much to do. As it is such a busy time for Mrs Claus, we are giving her the festive season off this year, but fear not ... the Santa Sleigh Train will be in action driven by Santa and his helpers, so do not miss this! Make sure you keep an eye on our Facebook page so you are up to date with all our plans and activities.



Rheas

All our animals are always so happy to see you and we still have some small piglets that are so cute, but very cheeky! At the moment there are sheep, goats, ponies, all sorts of chickens, ducks, turkeys, pheasants, rabbits, guinea pigs and our rhea and they all love to see our visitors. Open days and special events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals throughout the winter and we can only do this with your help and support. We are in Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry  
Tel: 07747 787973

Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



This is to say *Thank You* to everyone who came and supported the coffee morning at Old Lane House, Church Road on 29<sup>th</sup> September and to those who were unable to come but generously sent donations. Thanks as well to the team of helpers and those who donated prizes for the raffle and brought cakes for the cake stall which all contributed to make it a successful occasion. The weather was kind to us and it was good to see so many people again; the grand total of £700 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support and the final total will be higher when the gift aid has been added. Thank you for your support.

Christine and Bill Stiles

## STANSTED SURGERY PPG ULTRASOUND APPEAL

I am the current chair of our Patient Participation Group (PPG) and greatly appreciate what the surgery does for this community. Their current challenge is to administer flu and covid jabs to thousands of us. The PPG has tried to raise money for pieces of equipment not provided by the NHS. A hand held ultrasound machine would be extremely helpful to our GPs and physiotherapists. Diagnostic ultrasound uses soundwaves to produce images of internal body structures. These can provide valuable information for diagnosing and directing treatment for a variety of diseases and conditions. Currently, if a doctor thinks that ultrasound images can help diagnose your condition, they refer you to a local hospital and you are placed on a waiting list for this to be done. The ultrasound is performed by someone who does not know the details of your condition, and the results sent back to your doctor.

As the portability and quality of ultrasound machines have developed, they have become an accessible tool for GP surgeries. The benefits of performing ultrasound scans within the doctor's surgery include: improved care by integrating the ultrasound findings with the clinical history and examination, increasing the speed of diagnosis and treatment, reduced pressure on hospital services and reduced travel for patients. The cost of this equipment is £5,000 and it would be available for use by all the doctors and physiotherapists at the surgery. If you can donate to this worthy cause, it would be very much appreciated. Cheques should be made out to *The Stansted Surgery* or payments made direct to sort code 30 90 84 account number 01496140 (The Stansted Surgery, Lloyds). All donations received are audited by the surgery's accountants, to ensure the donations are spent on the intended purpose. Thank you.



Janice McDonald  
Tel: 813226

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the September draw winners:

£100	No 139	Alan Corbishley
£ 50	No 65	Elaine Wright
£ 25	No 53	Nicola Ward

The draw for November will be held on **26<sup>th</sup> November** 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 £2,500 given away this year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson  
Tel: 819062

Email: [jean733@btinternet.com](mailto:jean733@btinternet.com)

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2	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 7.30 pm
7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Thu	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before noon</b>
		W I	Day Centre 7.30 pm
10	Fri	Henham Christmas Market	Village Hall and OSCA 1 - 8 pm
11	Sat	Autumn Craft Fair	St James, Thorley 11 am - 3.30 pm
12 & 26	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4 pm
12	Sun	Music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm
14	Tue	Coffee Morning RSPB	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon Bishop's Park 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
15 Wed - 18 Sat		B S Art Soc Exhibition	Jackson Sq, B S 10 am - 4 pm
16	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
18	Sat	Farmers' Market Christmas Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am St John's Hall noon - 3 pm
		S Walden Choral Society	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
26	Sun	S W Symphony Orchestra	Saffron Hall 3.00 pm

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Grand Draw 

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10 am - noon

Sat 18th Nov

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 Communications Officer  
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www.musicatstansted.co.uk

A reminder of our next concert on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November** at 3.00pm in St John's Church when the exciting young cellist Maxim Calver will be playing for us. Max will be choosing from his extensive repertoire of baroque, classical and romantic masterpieces for his recital. Tickets are adults £15, concessions £12, under 25s free, available in advance tel: 81528 or on the door.



Richard Allaway

Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk



www.stortfordartsociety.co.uk

We have existed since 1935, and one of our founding members was the Countess of Warwick, known as Daisy. She lived at Little Easton Lodge and was a great friend of King Edward VII. We meet twice a month on Thursdays at 7.30pm in Thorn Grove School, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5LD. We always hope more members will join us; visitors are welcome to come and see demonstrations or take part in working evenings, so if you enjoy art, why not come and see for yourself? Please bring your own cup if you would like tea or coffee. Every so often we put on a workshop, when an established artist will come and help us to paint one or two pieces of art; these workshops are always very popular.

There will be a working evening on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** when you are invited to bring your own project and materials to work with; members £3, visitors £7. On **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** there will be a demonstration of an oil landscape by James Power; members £4, visitors £7. All our members are allowed to exhibit several of their paintings at our exhibitions, the next one being **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>-Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November** (see below for details). Do come along, you might find a Christmas present there for that special person. For more information please see our website or Facebook page, search Bishop's Stortford Art Society.

Carole Crosby

Tel: 812768

Email: crosbyca10@aol.com

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD ART SOCIETY**

**www.stortfordartsociety.co.uk**

**Exhibition and Sale  
of Paintings by Members**

**10 am - 4 pm Wed 15th - Sat 18th Nov**

**Community Space opposite the Currency Exchange  
Jackson Square, Bishop's Stortford**

**Tel Carole on 812768 for more information**



www.southmillarts.co.uk

This November, South Mill Arts will be turning 60! To honour the occasion we will be hosting some fantastic events; come and join in the celebrations, starting on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** at 7.30pm when you can listen to Steve Scruton, Alan Goldsmith and Dave Berry reveal the *Secrets of the 60s* and talk about their stories from working in the music industry during the swinging 60s. From touring with *The Rolling Stones* and *The Beatles* to promoting *Elton John* and *Eric Clapton*, you will be amazed at the true stories of that magical musical era that changed Great Britain forever.



On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm we will be holding our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday bash, with music from *The Dreamers* and *The Bears*. *The Dreamers* remain one of the most iconic named bands from the 60s and paired with the upbeat chart toppers from *The Bears*, you will be dancing in your seat! So if you would like a fabulous night with music to dance the night away, make sure you book your tickets to the party of the season. Tickets for all events are available from the box office on 710200 or from our website where you can read about everything that is happening at South Mill Arts this season.

Seren Stephen

Tel: 710206



www.saffronsymphony.org

Prepare to be transported to majestic heights as the orchestra presents an enchanting mountain-themed concert on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November** at 3.00pm in Saffron Hall. The programme includes Mussorgsky *Night on the Bare Mountain*, inspired by Russian legends; Moeran *In the Mountain Country*, influenced by the composer's walks through the hills of Herefordshire and Ireland; MacCunn *The Land of the Mountain and the Flood*, a Scottish overture carrying the audience over the Scottish hills and beyond; and Hovhaness *Symphony No 50 Mount S. Helens*, depicting the eruption of the volcano in 1980. Tickets: adults £18 and £21, 18-25 year olds £11, under 18s £6 are available from www.saffronhall.com or tel 0845 548 7650.



Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059



## HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

With nights drawing in rapidly and a dip in the temperature, the forest is beginning to show autumnal hues of yellows, oranges and browns. There are still berries on the trees and the occasional dragonfly and butterfly can be seen flitting around and this is a quieter time to visit. There is nothing like a roaring log fire on a chilly evening to keep you warm and logs are available to buy from Hatfield Forest Estate Office. They are from hardwood trees harvested as a by-product of coppicing and are available for local delivery, within a 10-mile radius, from October until February 2024. The cost is £120 a bag (1.2 cubic metres); to place an order please email [hatfieldforest@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:hatfieldforest@nationaltrust.org.uk) or tel: 870678.



Come and see the Shell House fully restored to its former glory by the lake. The house was built around 1750 and its shells come from the West Indian, West African and Indo Pacific trade, collected by the Houblon family. Cliveden Conservation have carried out its vital restoration. Traditional techniques were followed using original patterns. Materials such as knapped flint, blue glass slag and a variety of exotic and native shells have been fixed to the outer walls using original materials, where possible. A deep conservation clean is now taking place and it will reopen to visitors soon.

No booking is required to park your car this winter. Non-members should pay at the entrance gate. The entrance and Shell House car parks are open, but the Elgins car park is now closed. For more information on opening times, visit our website.

Hannah Underwood  
Assistant Business Services Co-ordinator  
Tel: 870678  
Email: [Hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Steet. We will be discussing *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman. We are expecting to laugh and cry in equal measures at this heartwarming story which has recently been made into a film, re-named *A Man Called Otto*, starring Tom Hanks; it is usually better to read the book before seeing the film rather than the other way around and it will be interesting to see how the two compare. 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)

## ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET

Our Christmas Market will take place on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November** noon-3.00pm in St John's Hall. We will have most of our usual stalls including home-made cakes, gifts, and knitted goods; Father Christmas is scheduled to make an appearance too! Grand Draw tickets with some super prizes will be on sale. We are seeking additional stallholders this year, so if you, or anyone you know, is interested, please contact me. The cost of a table is £25.



Kathy West  
Tel: 07880 602717  
Email: [kewest@btinternet.com](mailto:kewest@btinternet.com)

## QUIZ

All answers begin with S

- 1 Cartoon character from Bikini Bottom
- 2 US city where you would find the 184m Space Needle
- 3 Surname of author of *The Catcher in the Rye*
- 4 Basking, Thresher and Mako are types of this animal
- 5 Leader of the Soviet Union in WWII
- 6 Gladiator who led slave uprising against Romans in 73BC
- 7 Edward Jenner developed vaccine against this disease
- 8 Medical name for the shoulder blade
- 9 Largest hot desert in the world
- 10 Football club with nickname *Black Cats*
- 11 World's most expensive spice
- 12 In New Zealand this animal outnumbers people by six to one
- 13 Na is its chemical symbol
- 14 Fear of Halloween
- 15 Elderly woman with superpowers played by Gudrun Ure

Compiled by Tricia Bromley

Answers on page 31



## STANSTED HELPLINE GETS TOGETHER

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October all our volunteers were invited to a cuppa and cake at the Day Centre. It was an opportunity for the drivers to put faces to the voices of the people who ring them to arrange transport for our clients, and a chance to chat to their fellow volunteers. The afternoon was enjoyed by all. Our new Chairman, Anne, started with a potted history of Helpline and then shared the latest statistics. Our adult safeguarding policy was also covered by Anne before volunteers were asked for their comments about Helpline. There followed a lively discussion concerning hospital car parking, particularly registration of blue badges at Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow and the type of help available for patients discharged from hospital such as free GPS alarm systems. Paul Chambers joined us to explain the work of Touchpoint and its activities at their Community Café, including breakfast and teatime clubs, lunches, food share and Sunday afternoon family movie shows. It is hoped that Helpline and Touchpoint can work more closely together to support Stansted residents.

Helpline was established in 1984 and started with 100 volunteers dealing with 165 calls; 88 were for transport. We now have 20 to 30 volunteers and last year took 139 calls; all were transport requests. We could do with a few more volunteer drivers who would be free to do as much or as little as they want. If you can help, please ring the Helpline number 07704 553727, which is available Monday to Friday 9.00am-4.00pm. It is very rewarding work and a chance to meet some lovely people. If you cannot drive or use public transport and have no-one else able to assist, please call us, and we will do our best to arrange to take you where you need to go.

Stansted Helpline Committee



## FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

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

The Fun Place on the Hill is open every **Friday, including school holidays**, from 9.15am-11.30am in the Free Church Hall. All visitors are welcome. Parents, children and people of all ages drop in and adults relax with a hot drink and chat. Meanwhile the children enjoy plenty of space to run around and play with the toys, and listen to Story Time at around 10.30am. Always popular are Peppa Pig toys, the Doll's House and a variety of vehicles. Now colder weather is returning, 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. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.

Sue Parker and Fran Richards

Tel: 657116

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



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

**Wellbeing Festival** We had a fabulous turnout for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Wellbeing Festival, with visitors able to find out about a variety of local clubs and organisations, as well as getting some early Christmas shopping done. Special thanks to St John's Church for hosting us and the Social Club for providing the music.



**Website** We are excited to launch our new website, featuring a fresh new funky look! We are hugely grateful to *Popcorn Design* for their assistance. The website showcases news and information about our community groups, activities and events, our team and ways you can support us. There is also a *Need help?* page with useful links and telephone numbers and a contact form so you can contact us easily. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

**Free courses** In conjunction with Mind in West Essex, we are offering a number of **free** courses to support your mental wellbeing and quality of life. To sign up for one or more of the following, please email us.

### Half Day

Five Ways to Wellbeing  
The Mental Health Toolkit  
Managing Work and Life Stress  
Trauma and Recovery  
Mental Health Awareness  
Supporting teenagers' emotional wellbeing  
Equity and Inclusion  
Alcohol, Substance Misuse and Mental Health

### Short courses

Sleep Well Work Well (1½ hours)  
Relaxation and Mindful Breathing (1 hour)

**Co-op funding** Thank you to everyone who has been raising money for us through the Co-op over the last 12 months. By late September you had raised an incredible £805, with three weeks of fundraising left. We hope to fund a series of wellbeing talks. If there is a specific aspect you would like to hear about, or if you are a wellbeing expert or practitioner and would like to share your knowledge, please get in touch.

Dina McDonald

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Chris **01279 817111** [info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk](mailto:info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk)



## STANSTED FREE CHURCH HALL

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

## Stansted Quaker Meeting House

71 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AE

Available for hire on a regular basis for classes,  
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One hall with access to a smaller room and kitchen for  
making drinks, peaceful garden, piano, screen,  
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Public parking opposite. Competitive rates

Please contact Yvonne Estop

Tel: **07595 087207**

Email: [yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto:yvonne-wood@outlook.com)



## ST JOHN'S HALL

Available for Hire

Large hall available on a regular basis  
or for one-off parties and other events

Fully fitted kitchen • Competitive prices

*Central village location with some parking on site*

Please contact the church office on **01279 815243**

Email: [st.johns.church@btinternet.com](mailto:st.johns.church@btinternet.com)

## Ugley Village Hall

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

With two halls, ample parking, facilities for the disabled and  
competitive rates, Ugley Village Hall on the B1383  
(Cambridge Road), is available for hire throughout the  
year for children's parties, adult parties (over 25s),  
functions, clubs, classes and social meetings.

For bookings or further information please contact Susan Bone  
Tel: **01279 814052** Email: [ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com)



## THE COCK INN HENHAM

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## STANSTED PEOPLE

### MAUREEN CATON

Most Stansted residents know Maureen as the Chair of the Parish Council. However, as you will see in this article, she has a great many other interests and a very varied and fulfilling life. She was born and raised in Chelsea, then attended Saffron Walden Teacher Training College. Following this, she went to University College Cambridge where she earned a Bachelor of Education degree, specialising in Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology. She taught in Hackney for five years, then changed career and moved into Children's Social Care, becoming Head of Service for Children's Residential Care, the Placement Service, Family Centres and Children with Disabilities for Essex County Council.



Her first post in Social Care was in an Adult Training Centre for six months, while she considered exactly what she wanted to do. She chose to work with children who have physical and mental disabilities and her first job doing this was at Hargrave House, long before it became the Care Home that it is today. Maureen met her husband Melvin in Stansted, and they have lived here for the past 42 years. Hargrave House for Disabled Children was moved to Chelmsford, in spite of petitions to Downing Street. Maureen hosted Princess Diana when she opened the Chelmsford Home in 1996 – it was a state-of-the-art building which included an indoor swimming pool.

Maureen is now self-employed as a Children's Social Care Consultant working in different local authorities: Cambridge, Southend, Peterborough, Norfolk, Slough, Sussex and Birmingham. She undertakes service reviews and investigates major complaints, as well as monitoring practice in various children's residential homes. She has always loved the work as it is incredibly rewarding but, as you can imagine, it can be very emotional indeed. She so enjoys watching the outcomes for young people changing for the better and loves being around youngsters. Maureen is glad to say that she has never been without a job; these days it is nice to be able to pick and choose which job she wants to take on. In any typical working week, the Social Care work takes up about half that week, and the Parish work accounts for the rest.

Maureen was elected to the Parish Council 11 years ago, and chaired the Open Spaces Committee for a year, until she was elected to be Chair of the Council - a post she has held since. Her attitude is that Councillors are there for the local community, so what concerns the latter should also concern the Council. I asked her about what she feels have been the Council's achievements under her leadership and her immediate answer was giving support to the recent permission granted for a second licensed dispensing pharmacy in the village. The local Surgery taking up the cudgels, and getting the licence on appeal - which we are all hugely happy about. In addition to this achievement, Maureen mentioned the Youth Council, working with colleagues on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, Twinning with Rungis near Paris, and working with the Stansted Business Forum on the Economic Development of the local area, which enables local business to access grants, for example. Finally, after a great deal of hard work, which included picketing and speaking at County Hall, the Library was saved from closure by the Parish Council led efforts.

When asked about past and current challenges, Maureen mentioned that looking for land to re-site the Almshouses is proving problematic, but the biggest thorn in many peoples' side is that of the Grove Hill nightmare. This exemplifies the ongoing frustration of the time needed to resolve such issues, due mainly to excessive bureaucracy. The saga of the construction of the new Council Offices in Crafton Green evidently burns in her memory; the process was riddled with troubles throughout!

So, what does Maureen enjoy doing for leisure? She and Melvin very much enjoy jazz and they often go to the 606 Jazz Club in Chelsea. They also recently went to the Royal Albert Hall, for a performance by Gregory Porter (a top-class American singer/songwriter). The Catons have two children and two grandchildren, aged 8 and 10, whom they see quite often, in spite of the children living across the water in Hillsborough, Northern Ireland. Finally, Maureen and Melvin love to go travelling particularly to foreign cities, and during October they went to the Golden Triangle in India, which is bound to have been an unforgettable adventure.

Ed

## HENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

The market is on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November** 1.00pm-8.00pm in the Village Hall and OSCA. Entry £2, children free. Proceeds to Meningitis Research Foundation and Making Steps for Mason.

Anna Sedgbeer

Email: [annasedgbeer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annasedgbeer@yahoo.co.uk)



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

There are no weddings or funerals in September

Why is Jesus' earthly homeland in constant strife, discord, and even decades of war? Couldn't Jesus do something to help his blood relatives, fellow citizens and everyone in that part of the world called Holyland? *Is Jesus in the boat sleeping, with his head on a cushion as the raging waves and storms dangerously batter their boat?* (Mark 3:35-41). The inquisitive child in me, asks these questions again and again. This child in me believes that God's power and authority is infinitely beyond any human power or capability - with this power, God should intervene and bring an end to war and discord within seconds. Yet, God himself, in the person of Jesus, gets nailed on the cross.

We are hearing terrible news of war in Israel and Palestine, with hundreds of victims in a day. It is so emotional seeing the pictures of innocent children and their families, accompanied by the continuous sound of explosions. Many people are fleeing their homes as full-blown war is planned and its escalation anticipated. The earthly homeland of Jesus has no peace. It is so sad.

God has done his bit by creating the world to be good "*God saw all that he had made, and indeed it was very good*" (Genesis 1:31). Our bit as human beings is to keep and maintain the goodness and peace that God has put within us and the whole world. With the event of Jesus that culminated in the cross and resurrection, God has definitively chosen to show us how to live and die; that is, by choosing to forgive as opposed to taking revenge, and by choosing to keep peace as opposed to discord and war.

Fr. Clement Orango  
Priest In Charge  
St Theresa's Catholic Church



### ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ  
[www.sttheresastansted.org](http://www.sttheresastansted.org)

**Parish Priest** Fr Clement Orango  
Tel: 814 349  
Email: [frclementorango@brcdt.org](mailto:frclementorango@brcdt.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  
**Wednesday** 12.30pm

**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



#### From St John's Registers

**Baptism**  
12<sup>th</sup> September Hal Robert Matthew Rapkin



**All enquiries including Church Hall bookings** The Church Office, St John's Hall, St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
Tel: 815243 (with answerphone)  
Office hours: Monday 3.00pm-5.00pm Thursday and Friday 10.00am-12.00  
Email: [stansted.church.office@gmail.com](mailto:stansted.church.office@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.thefivechurches.org.uk](http://www.thefivechurches.org.uk)

**Priest in Charge** Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather  
Tel: 816721  
Email: [revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com](mailto:revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest** Rev'd Helen Flack  
Email: [revhelenstn@gmail.com](mailto:revhelenstn@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Assistant:** Kathryn West  
Tel: 816293  
Email: [kewest@btinternet.com](mailto:kewest@btinternet.com)

**Director of Music** Anne Brooks  
Email: [anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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







## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC  
Chapel Hill

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

**Secretary** Betty Francis  
Tel: 813977  
Email: [betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org)

### Preachers for November

5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe  
12<sup>th</sup> 10.50am Remembrance Sunday at Memorial Gardens  
19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion  
26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin

### Harvest Festival

This year we collected goods and financial contributions for the Whitechapel Mission, which has been serving the homeless and marginalised since 1876. In addition to providing daily breakfasts and showers, they also have a clothing store, a day centre, skills training and career advice, activity programmes and specialist support for complex needs. They believe everyone deserves a chance, regardless of their background, race or religion, and are open to all, without exception.



As you can see from the picture above, the congregation responded very generously to help support their work.



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

I am simply thrilled to be able to tell you that we have been awarded Silver in the *Anglia in Bloom* competition for our churchyard project this year. Many thanks to everyone who helped us to get ready for judging day way back in July. Special thanks to Peter and Sue for all the hours of hard work and aching backs. We also received a gold award for community participation, along with five other organisations in the village (see p 21 for details).

Champing season will close on 27<sup>th</sup> October but we still have bookings in the diary. On **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December** there will be a performance of *A Christmas Carol*. Tickets are available from tel: 07732 253311 or [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com).



Lynda Dale  
Tel: 07716 099474



## 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.



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

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

The last of our Sunday open days for 2023 was on 1<sup>st</sup> October and they re-commence from Easter next year. We are happy to open the mill for groups to visit so please get in contact if you are interested in a guided tour. We would like to express our appreciation to our volunteer stewards who have given up their time to enable us to open the mill to the public, and raise much needed funds to support our conservation work.

Our focus now is on getting the mill ready for our Santa at the Mill event which takes place on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**. Transforming the first floor of the mill into a magical grotto takes a lot of time and effort from a small team of volunteers. Full details will be in the December issue of *The Link* and on social media platforms.

We are currently in the process of applying for grants to enable us to complete the repointing of the brickwork at the mill. Approximately 10% of the brickwork was repointed in 2019 at a cost of about £5,000. We now need to complete the job by repointing the remaining brickwork. We have a quote of just over £50,000 from a local company that specialises in undertaking conservation work on historic buildings. Maintaining the pointing of a brick structure through repointing is crucial. Although it does not need to be done frequently it is vital to do it correctly. The replacement of decaying mortar is necessary because the bricks would otherwise suffer damage from the elements resulting in serious problems such as damp ingress and black mould spreading, causing costly and hazardous problems to the internal parts of the mill.

Trevor Lloyd  
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## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club started up again at the end of September with a curling competition won by member Emma. Upcoming evenings include a relaxation session and bingo so we have a wide range of activities to look forward to! If you or anyone you know with a learning disability is interested in attending as a member, please do get in touch. We would also welcome any new volunteers; please let us know if you can help out.

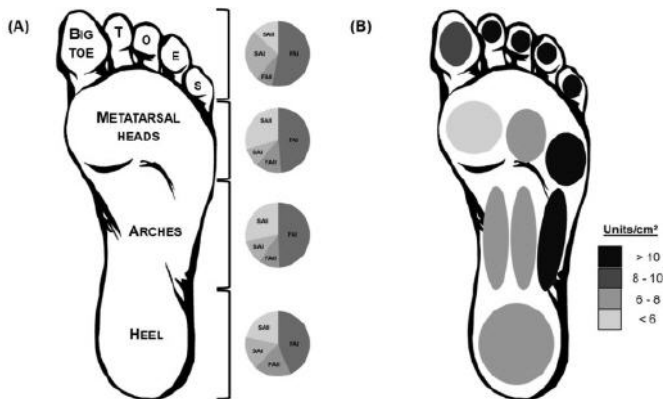
Ellen Brooks  
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## BRAIN TRAINING

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The soles of the feet are rich in pressure receptors. These send signals up to the brain aiming to keep us safely upright. The feet are a vital part of the whole balance system. These receptors talk to the parts of the brain that promote movement, as well as the insula cortex which helps us prepare relevant heart rate, blood pressure and so on, and, most extraordinarily, to the hippocampus – long term memory and memory retrieval. We do not know why there is this connection; it seems to be related to remembering our direction of walking.



I have noticed that, while grappling with my daily Duolingo French and German, when I cannot remember some blooming word, I get fed up and start to go to get a drink of water. I often remember the word within a few steps. This has always struck me as odd and now I know why this would work. I have also heard that if you cannot remember why you came into the room, return from whence you came, and you will remember what you needed. Again, it is probably the walking with intention of remembering that helps that happen. Of course, it is important that your feet can feel the floor. Wearing cushioned shoes deadens these pressure receptors and plays havoc with your ability to balance. Therefore, if you forget something and you are wearing comfy slippers, take them off, wiggle your feet about on the floor to wake them up and start walking around. Best of all is to wear thin soled, flexible shoes whenever possible.

Clare Harding  
Z-Health Master Practitioner  
Tel: 07802 872919



## SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

### Why is it important to reduce food waste?

“Please take a whole tray of mushrooms” the friendly pink t-shirt wearing volunteers say. “Does anyone need a birthday cake?” “Have you ever tried star fruit?” I love going to the TouchPoint Community Food Share. If you have not discovered it yet, TouchPoint rescues food that supermarkets no longer want, to prevent it going to landfill. Several times a week they offer it, at no cost, to the local communities in Stansted, Elsenham, Takeley and Saffron Walden. Over 1,500 people a week benefit and 7,000 kg of food each month is saved; it is quite something.



I love getting something for free and I love the challenge of making something with a new, unexpected ingredient. The main thing that pulls me to the food share each week is that reducing food waste has a significant part to play in the fight against climate change. When food rots, rather than being eaten, it creates much larger amounts of the greenhouse gas methane. In fact **food waste is responsible for more greenhouse gases than the airline industry.** According to the United Nations, if food waste were a country, it would be third only to China and the United States, in terms of greenhouse gas emissions.

Other ideas to reduce food waste include:

- Meal planning, only buying what you need, and checking what you already have before shopping
- Using your freezer more, for example for sliced bread. Fuller freezers use less energy too!
- Love your leftovers; use recipe websites to search for ideas based on what you need to use up
- Blend fruit that looks a bit past its best into smoothies (or freeze it until you want one.)

Vicki Anderson  
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

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## AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

With autumn now upon us the reserve is changing colour from greens to browns and the trees and shrubs are providing a feast of nuts and berries for the mice, squirrels and birds to feed on. Beneath the beech and hazel trees in particular there is a very good crop of nuts this year. Look closely and you can see the different ways in which mice and squirrels open a hazelnut shell to get at the edible part inside. If you find a hazelnut that has not been opened, open the shell yourself and chances are that the nut inside has not formed. The squirrels and mice can tell this before opening the shell and therefore save themselves the effort. Now is also a good time to see spiders. The spider webs are more obvious as they glisten in the morning dew and make an excellent subject for photography. The reserve supports a wide range of spiders, something that would be worthy of study in its own right. One species that caught my eye recently was the Wasp Spider; a spectacular spider so named for the yellow and black markings on the female.



The car park has some significant potholes and needs attention, so work will be carried out this month to repair it. This may mean closing the car park for a short period, so apologies for any inconvenience.

John Welham  
Warden

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

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Martin Lockwood spoke about Saucy Seaside Postcards for our meeting in September. Postcards were introduced in the 1870s and were plain on both sides. In 1902 the Post Office allowed pictures on one side but with little room for a message; this was adjusted in 1903. Saucy cards came when visitors to boarding houses started coming on holiday. Donald McGill was a designer who produced over 1,200 cards and 200,000 were sold. Martin showed us many of the cards and a lot of giggling could be heard.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** when we will be hearing from three local organisations: *Let's Talk Stansted!*, *Sustainable Stansted* and *Touchpoint*. We meet on the second Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Day Centre. We welcome visitors and new members; do come and join us.

Linda Gurr  
Tel: 07743 549241



## TOUCHPOINT - BEHIND THE SCENES

www.thetouchpoint.org

Many of you will have noticed the free food share project started over a year ago by local charity Touchpoint. When I discovered that the equivalent of 200,000 meals had been distributed free of charge to our community, I was curious to learn what went on behind the scenes. My first trip was shadowing a regular volunteer on his round to a couple of Tesco branches in Harlow, to collect food. These trips take place throughout the week to several supermarkets and chain restaurants including Sainsbury's, Aldi, Waitrose, Pret A Manger and most recently Nando's. The food and other goods collected from these locations go primarily towards the food shares, but also Sunday movies and local school breakfast clubs.

Upon arrival at the Tesco stores in the eye-catching Touchpoint refrigerated van, the produce is swiftly loaded to keep it as fresh as possible during the drive back to Touchpoint headquarters in Stansted. During this collection we picked up bread, fresh fruit and vegetables, along with some flowers. I learnt that all of this would have ended up in landfill despite it being in good condition, which is so very sad. Back in Stansted two more volunteers are ready and waiting to weigh, sort and log the items before storing them ready for their use in the coming days.

I gained a greater understanding of the collection and sorting process by shadowing the team and felt a sense of achievement and pride from them; they all said they enjoy working together on such a great community project. Touchpoint currently needs more dedicated volunteers for collections and sorting so if you feel that you would like to learn more about volunteering, please email [volunteer@thetouchpoint.org](mailto:volunteer@thetouchpoint.org).

Hannah Sian Chaplin  
Email: [hschaplin@gmail.com](mailto:hschaplin@gmail.com)



www.swchoral.org.uk

The choral society are performing *The Dream of Gerontius* on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm in Saffron Hall. Elgar was inspired to write this moving choral and orchestral music after reading the poem by Cardinal Newman. The poem and Elgar's music follow the story of Gerontius approaching death and of his soul's journey to meet his guardian angel and face the judgement of God. On the way he meets choruses of angels and demons. Eventually he is taken to purgatory before attaining everlasting glory. The Society is delighted that Mark Wilde will be singing the role of Gerontius and that the choir of St Peter's College, Oxford will join them. The concert will be accompanied by the Chameleon Arts Orchestra, under the baton of Quintin Beer, the Choral Society's Musical Director. Tickets: adults £19, £25 and £33, under 25s £10, £13 and £17, available from the Saffron Hall website [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or Saffron Hall Box Office tel 0845 548 7650.



Sarah Ludlow-Elston

# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

*...with news of this year's Remembrance Service, a new local business support group and success for the village in the Anglia in Bloom competition. Also we have an overview of how Uttlesford draft Local Plan could impact the village in the future.*



### Remembrance Service 2023

Veterans of the World Wars of last century may no longer be with us but Stansted's Remembrance Service held to honour the sacrifice of all those who have fought in conflicts around the world since 1914 to defend the nation and our way of life remains a well-attended, fitting tribute by our community to their heroic efforts. Hundreds attend the Memorial Service each year, and in 2022 more than 30 wreaths were left at the Chapel Hill memorial by local organisations, charities and representatives from the emergency services, armed forces and local authorities. The service will be held on Sunday, November 12 if you would like to pay your respects once more.

#### Event Details

**Time:** Gather from 10.30am

**Place:** St John's Memorial Gardens, Chapel Hill

**Parade Route:** From Crafton Green car park, down Chapel Hill to the Memorial Gardens. The parade will be led by service personnel from Carver Barracks.

**Service:** Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather will lead the service. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Church Hall.

**Traffic Management:** Traffic will be held in both directions along Chapel Hill from 10.40 to 10.50am. Drivers using the village roads at this time are asked to consider their speed and noise until the service has finished at around 11.30am, and ideally to find an alternative route before this time.

### Laying foundations for business success

This autumn the Parish Council was proud to announce the establishment of a new business body that will work to boost the prospects of local enterprises and employment opportunities. The Economic Development Group consists of SMPC chair Maureen Caton, officials from Uttlesford District Council and members of the Stansted Business Forum. The body will meet on a weekly basis and has set itself the task of working to:

- promote Stansted Mountfitchet as a vibrant and thriving community with access to shops / services and local attractions
- develop plans to enhance commercial and retail activity and expand the variety of service provision
- help businesses access start-up support, as well as loans and grants
- promote local community employment opportunities
- tackle barriers to business development
- support the retention of employment land for that purpose and, where appropriate, its redevelopment to meet current needs including green retrofitting
- assist business in working towards net-zero carbon emission targets by helping them access low-carbon and renewable energy schemes
- reduce liability risks stemming from climate change, such as from fire and floods
- work with (and lobby) existing local authorities and agencies, eg UDC's Business Support Group
- support the Stansted Business Forum

The Economic Development Group held its first meeting in October at which it established its terms of reference. Parish Council Chair Maureen Caton said: "Covid lockdowns, the impact of Brexit in terms of additional business costs and finding staff, as well as the impact of rising energy costs are making life very difficult for many of our shops and companies. We are hopeful the Economic Development Group will find ways for businesses to overcome these obstacles and thrive in the future."

## Council News in Brief

### Uttlesford | PUBLIC CONSULTATION

District Council is to begin consulting residents on the Local Plan 2021-41. It proposes 390 homes to be built in the north of Stansted (see page 22).

Meanwhile, the Parish Council is working with UDC officials to prepare the village's Neighbourhood Development Plan for submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

### Bloor Homes have notified | ALLOTMENTS

the Parish Council they are ready to transfer the new allotments at Walpole Meadows. UDC have authorised the transfer. We await action from Bloor's legal team.

### Topsoil and quick-drying | REPAIRS

cement have been used to seal the sink hole at the Recreation Ground, following temporary repairs needed to stabilise the area this summer. Also, railings around the water fountain on Chapel Hill will be fixed after being clattered by a motorist.

### An application is to | ZEBRA CROSSING

be made to Uttlesford's Local Highways Panel for 2 zebra crossings on Walson Way in light of a favourable response to the proposal from a consultation with Foresthall Park residents this summer.

**LIGHTING TRIAL** | With street lights to be turned off in parts of the village on a 3-month trial basis, residents are asked to contact SMPC with any areas they have experienced a particular issue impacting their safety. Email [info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk) or call 01279 813214.



Thanks to help from | **YOUTH COUNCIL** Forest Hall School, which has drummed up fresh recruits, our Youth Council is now fully up and running. In October it held its first meeting at the school and the Parish Council arranged for youth councillors to visit the Houses of Parliament with pupils over from Rungis on a twinning trip.

Recent summer | **AILING TREES** heat waves have adversely affected trees across the village, notably at Elms Farm, with many saplings planted in 2022 failing to thrive. A tree survey next year will uncover the extent of the problem and its budgetary impact.

## Anglia in Bloom Awards 2023



Clockwise: The Social Club's award-winning garden; the Club's Alan Snook and committee member Chrissy Hammond with their Gold Award for best Pub/ Restaurant Garden. Trevor Lloyd (right) of Stansted AiB collecting the village's Silver Gilt ward.

Organisers of the village's entry into this year's Anglia in Bloom competition would like to thank everyone who participated in the event. Judges were particularly taken by the level of community engagement evident in Stansted Mountfitchet. At the event's awards in September six local groups merited Gold awards for Community Participation:

- Human Roots
- TouchPoint
- Stansted Mountfitchet Windmill
- Let's Talk, Stansted! (The Men's Shed project)
- Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve
- St Mary's Church

The Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club earned a Gold Award for best Pub/Restaurant Garden across the whole of East Anglia!

This is the second year Stansted has entered the prestigious garden competition and once again earned a Silver Gilt award for the standard of its entry overall.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE



Liberal Democrats

**Geoffrey Sell**

District Councillor for Stansted North

Uttlesford District Council is currently preparing a draft Local Plan. This will determine where development will take place up to 2041.

The reality is that Uttlesford has not had a Local Plan since 2005. There have been two failed attempts. Consequently, the district has seen much speculative development. Some 6000 houses have received planning permission which have currently not been built.

The Local Plan Leadership Group I recently attended and spoke at. Please see the link to the meeting. Go to media <https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId 510 MId 6263> My contribution is at 42 minutes from the commencement of the meeting.

I raised concerns about the traffic volumes on the B1383. Potentially this draft Local Plan and those houses approved would amount to an additional 4,600 households making use of the B1383. I recently had a dental appointment in Bishop's Stortford. It took me 30 minutes to travel from Stansted.

### Car Dependent Development

For Stansted the draft Local Plan is proposing the developments at north of the existing Walpole Meadows development and south of Alsa Street. These will be both car dependent.

"The provision of up to 390 dwellings, including affordable and specialist housing on high-quality development to the north of the settlement and outside of the Green Belt.

### Uttlesford's Draft Plan & Stansted

#### Key Proposals

- 6,076 new homes to be built across Uttlesford by 2041, of which 390 will be in Stansted
- Proposed community gains from development include a new primary school, a community facility, and improved pedestrian and cycle provision along Cambridge Road
- Enhancements to the village railway station, with improved local walking and cycling connections to the station
- A commitment to a Countryside Protection Zone around Stansted to preserve its rural identity and prevent merger with nearby settlements

"The proposal will deliver a 2 form entry primary school, which helps cater for nearby development that is already consented, and contribute towards the expansion of the existing secondary school.

"The site will also provide a new community facility, to comprise either an educational, health or leisure function and to be located accessibly with regard to the existing settlement.

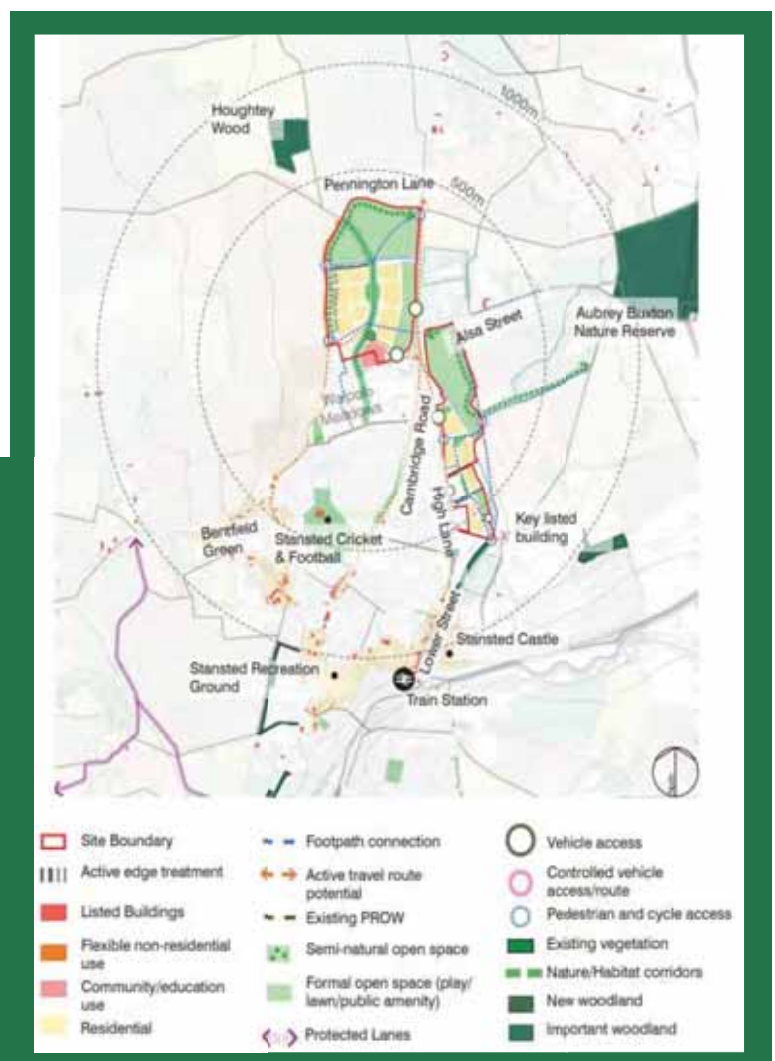
"New areas of green and blue infrastructure which link the settlement into the natural resources within the wider landscape. Enhanced pedestrian and cycle connectivity along Cambridge Road".

### What happens next?

The draft Local Plan will go to Cabinet and then to Full Council on the 30th October. If approved, it will then go out to public consultation on 3 November. This will last until 15 December 2023. Representations can be emailed to [localplan@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@uttlesford.gov.uk) or in writing to

Uttlesford Council at Council Offices  
London Road  
Saffron Walden  
CB11 4ER.

The Chief Executive stated this would be a meaningful consultation and not a tick box exercise.





## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

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### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are at 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. If you wish to attend virtually, look for Zoom details in the agenda documents on our website:

*Finance & General Purposes* **Nov 1**

*Full Council* **Nov 15** *Open Spaces* **Nov 22**

### UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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**Ray GOODING**  
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### ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
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### POLICE

PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART  
email: [alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk](mailto:alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk)  
Non-urgent incidents call: 101  
Serious incidents call: 999 [www.essex.police.uk/ro/report](http://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report)

### 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 (**Nov 16**) from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing issues, access to job training and offer support to overcome addiction.

### TOUCHPOINT, STANSTED

The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill up your larder for free! **Foodshares** Stansted Social Club Wed 2.30-3.30pm, Thursdays Crafton Green 10am-noon, Saturdays 1-2pm; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 11am-5pm, Fridays 10am-12pm; **Free hot meals** on Tuesdays 4-6pm for pre-school and school age children; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 8.30am-10.30am. Contact [info@thetouchpoint.org](mailto:info@thetouchpoint.org) ☎ 07572 114882

### 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: **Nov 12, 26**

### 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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### Night Flights - Smoke and Mirrors

If you feel that there are more Stansted night flights than ever, you would be right. Stansted Airport Watch (SAW) has finally been able to establish what has been happening. Stansted is allowed a maximum of 13,700 flights a year during the 6½ hour core night period 11.30pm to 6.00am, more than twice the number allowed at Heathrow, so local residents in this part of the world are entitled to feel they have drawn the short straw. That is not the whole story. The Secretary of State allows Stansted management to use their own discretion to disregard certain night flights. These are known as dispensations and they are mostly granted when an aircraft which was scheduled to arrive or depart before 11.30pm, actually arrives or departs after 11.30pm, thereby becoming a night flight. In summer 2022, Stansted management granted a total of 1,201 dispensations.

SAW has also been able to obtain comparative information for Heathrow and Gatwick which shows that they are far less liberal in granting dispensations. Compared to the 1,201 Stansted dispensations, Gatwick granted 576 dispensations and Heathrow just 415. This is despite the fact that Stansted is by far the smallest of London's three main airports. The vast majority of Stansted dispensations were Ryanair flights and were categorised as being delays due to bad weather (mainly thunderstorms) and Air Traffic Control problems. However, this begs the question as to why Stansted flights should be so much more prone to thunderstorms and Air Traffic Control problems compared to Heathrow and Gatwick? Meanwhile many local residents may feel that it is time to stop Stansted management marking their own homework. Better still, it is time to dispense with dispensations.

Campaign Office  
Tel: 870558

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October I attended the first concert in the music@stansted 2023-24 season of classical music at St John's church. On learning that one of the founding members was stepping back from the Committee into the audience after 28 years I reflected on all their concerts I have been to since moving to the village in 2009.

That first concert for me was also the first event I went to in the village and remains the best move I have made into the cultural life of Stansted, and in my view the jewel in the crown of what the village offers. The quality, variety and standard of the programmes have been consistently of the highest, and at £10 per concert for season ticket holders of my age (65+) compared with the £38 I paid recently for a concert at Saffron Hall but without the driving and parking, it is a no-brainer as they say.

The only disappointing feature of the concert was the small size of the audience - only 50 or so, when in my first years

here the church was always packed. Is it the covid effect or too much competition from other events locally and via the media? Who knows, but in case anyone has not heard of these concerts or is not sure about going along, please give it a try. The music on offer is just too good to miss.

Helen Parrish

See details of music@stansted's November concert on page 9. Ed



By November we have reached the end of the season and closed the gates to visitors; hopefully we will have completed a lovely and memorable season. In September we had good weather for our Open Day and welcomed regular visitors and new ones to experience the joys of apples, apple juice, homemade cake, jams and honey. Local concert band *Take Note* played a wonderful range of music. When the gates have shut, we turn our thoughts to major projects for the closed season. Last year we put in a new path from the Italian garden to the walled kitchen garden. Visitors have really appreciated it and it is already well bedded in. This year we plan to complete the project, so the path starts from the car park and we can make the entrance area more welcoming. Once it is complete the path will help visitors see the glory of the gardens even when the grass is very wet in spring and autumn months.



Throughout October the gardens looked lovely in their autumn colours; in November we need a big leaf clearance effort. It is a group activity, both raking up the leaves and squishing them into the composting bay. By the end of the year the bay is full to overflowing, but it is amazing how quickly the leaves rot down and become usable mulch. We use this for protecting the dahlia border and asparagus beds over winter and for keeping moisture in the ground around newly planted trees and shrubs, so we need a lot. You can see more about what we are up to through the closed season by following us on Facebook or Instagram, looking at *Garden News* on our website or signing up for our e-newsletter online.

Jill Goldsmith  
Tel: 07947 183439  
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## STANSTED FIRE STATION

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Our charity work picked up in September with two of our team taking on superhuman tasks. Crew Manager Steve Perry took part in the gruelling 30-mile Commando Shuffle challenge across Dartmoor in the hottest Challenge ever recorded (33°). He completed the course in 11 hours 59 minutes carrying 25 pounds of essential kit and two litres of water per checkpoint, raising money for the Fire-Fighters charity.



Fire-Fighter Keegan Johnson also put her body through its paces taking part in the London Night Shine walk, covering 26 miles and raising money for Cancer Research UK. Congratulations to both of you; the station is incredibly proud of you. As the nights draw in and conditions get wetter, we would like to focus this month's issue on the dangers of flood water:

### Flood Safety Tips

- Keep an eye on weather reports for flooding in your area. Avoid driving in heavy rain
- Do not ignore road closed signs
- Never attempt to cross or drive through floodwater of an unknown depth. Just two feet of water will float a car
- Never try to swim through fast flowing water or floodwater – you may get swept away or be injured by an object in the water
- Do not assume fords are safe to cross because the road is not closed. Always look at the river level gauge and use your common sense
- Never allow children or pets to play in floodwater; it may be contaminated
- Prepare a flood kit in case your home floods or you are trapped in a vehicle for any period. This should contain a change of clothing, wellies, waterproofs and blankets, a torch, charged mobile, medication, a first aid kit and list of useful numbers, including flood alert lines.

Stay safe and best wishes from all of us.

The Stansted Crew  
Tel: 01376 57583  
Email: [stansted.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:stansted.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk)

## HOW TO DATE YOUR GLOBE OR MAP

It is not that hard! We just need your memory to be good enough for you to be able to confirm that you acquired your globe or map within the last 32 years, then follow these instructions:

- If the small, circular country in southern Africa between South Africa and Mozambique is classed as Eswatini, your globe is from 2018 or after
- If Eswatini is instead classed as Swaziland and your globe has a South Sudan, it is from between 2011 and 2018
- If it does not have South Sudan but *does* have Kosovo, it is from between 2007 and 2011
- If it has Serbia and Montenegro as separate countries but does not have Kosovo, it is from between 2006 and 2007
- If it has Serbia and Montenegro as one country and East Timor/Timor-L'este it is from between 2001 and 2006
- If it has Serbia and Montenegro but no East Timor/Timor-L'este it is from between 1992 and 2001
- If it has Czechoslovakia but no Soviet Union, it is from between 1991 and 1992
- If it has Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, it is from before 1991.

The Funky Chicken  
Aged 10  
Email: [cmgpelly@gmail.com](mailto:cmgpelly@gmail.com) (Mother)



## RECYCLING



### No more Blister Packs

The response to the appeal for blister packs has been overwhelming, so we are unable to accept any more at the present time whilst we clear the backlog.

However we can still accept the following: ink cartridges (**not** toners), dental products, 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*. 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 items. 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.

If you have laptops or printers there are two organisations which refurbish them and donate to schools and charities. Both will collect from you free of charge. Contact Cambridge Recycling Centre on 01223 473875 email: [sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk](mailto:sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk) or Townstech in Harlow tel 898240 [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)

# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - FINIALS AND POPPYHEADS

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

Before the 15<sup>th</sup> century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads. This word comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples. The carved figures can represent almost anything: for example flowers, fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels, however, meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven.

You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St Mary's Church Hatfield Broad Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints, with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'. Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature. In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell! Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.



**Widford Flower**



**Ickleton St Michael**



**Linton Scribe and Angel**



**Bartlow perhaps an Elephant**



**Barley Acorns**



**Much Hadham Lion**

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on the feedback page of our website or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665](https://www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665)

Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226

## THE APPOINTMENT

You know when you get that niggling pain in your right side? It can be anywhere in your body but it is usually on the right, and the reason for its appearance is completely inexplicable.

Well, I was suffering one of those, so off I trotted to my GP. The unlikelihood of wangling a face-to-face appointment did not escape me but I reasoned with the receptionist that, if the doc had to examine me, it made sense that I attend in person. So far, so good and my GP, being unable to locate the source of my pain referred me to a higher being.

I settled down for a long wait but, to my astonishment, within a week I received an appointment.

'Wonderful', I thought, 'The NHS has finally got back to the service of the 1960s!' But then I looked again, the appointment was for three months' time and it was not at the Herts and Essex Hospital but at Harlow. So inconvenient! I called the Appointment line at the hospital to try and change it. I was number 27 in the queue. Not to be deterred, I decided to wait.

Two hours later, I finally got through to a person. I explained it was really difficult - almost impossible (I lied) for me to travel to Harlow.

'Why?' the voice was more irritated than incredulous like she had heard it all before. 'Well,' I began, 'I'm old and I can't drive long distances.'

'But you only live in Bishop's Stortford,' she said.

'*Birchanger*,' I corrected her.

'Haven't you got a relative or neighbour who could bring you?' She now did sound incredulous.

'Oh I suppose so.' I could see my husband staring at me open-mouthed.

'You lied,' he said as I ended the call.

Two days later, I received a further letter. My appointment at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, had been cancelled and it was now scheduled for a week later at Epping. I called the Appointment line. I was number eighteen in the queue. Things were getting better. Maybe the NHS was improving after all. After an hour - another hour I would never get back - I was through.

'You have changed my appointment and it is now at Epping.' 'And?'

Her voice was cold and slightly intimidating - but only slightly so I decided to press on.

'I can't get to Epping. I wanted to go to Stortford but you sent me an appointment at Harlow which I didn't want, and now you have changed the appointment for a week later, and at Epping, and I don't want to go to Epping.' There was a pause.

'And?'

'How rude', I thought but, in the words of Lady Macbeth, I screwed my courage to the sticking place. 'It is most inconvenient.'

She cleared her throat, 'you do know this is the NHS. If you aren't happy, you can always go privately.' It suddenly dawned on me that this was the same woman I had encountered two days previously. I almost admitted defeat but tried once more.

'Why can I not go to Harlow or Bishop's Stortford? I am willing to wait a bit longer, if necessary. After all,' I chuckled, trying to lighten the mood, 'I don't suppose I am dying. But maybe that is what they are hoping will happen - another one off the list' Silence, as if she were trying to control herself.

'That is impossible,' she finally said, 'The whole department has moved to Epping.'

I was defeated.

'Lies never get you anywhere,' said my husband, who would tell the truth even if it meant seriously offending someone.

So it was that I set off for Epping three months later. 'I could have been dead by now' I muttered to myself as I headed up the M11. I found a parking space with no problem and, full of anticipation, made my way to Outpatients. The receptionist actually looked pleasant. I showed her my letter and confidently announced my appointment time, and the name of my consultant. Her eyes scanned the computer screen.

'Oh I am so sorry,' (she did sound genuinely remorseful), 'Your appointment has been cancelled. You should have received a text this morning. Mr Painless has gone down with flu.'

I could scarcely believe my ears.

'But I am here now. Can't someone else see me? One of his 'underlings'. After all, you usually do see the 'underling' don't you?' I implored. She had clearly never been ill in her life or, at least, had never had to deal with the mind-boggling workings of this system.

'There is no one else here from the team.' (The team? This wasn't the medical version of the Olympics) 'They have all gone down with this flu bug, except for his SHO and he is attending an emergency haemorrhoidectomy at PAH. They will send you another appointment.'

'Do you realise how far I have come?' The queue behind me was getting restless. I slunk away. As I walked back to the car park, my mobile 'phone 'pinged'. It was the text. They would be sending me another appointment in due course. 'No point in getting stressed,' my husband smirked, 'You will need a psychiatrist, if you carry on getting worked up about it.'

Within a week, the pain - the right-sided pain - had gone.

'You ought to call the hospital and tell them you don't need the appointment after all.' My husband cheerfully volunteered. 'Thousands of people waste NHS time and money by not attending appointments.'

I picked up the 'phone. I was number 30 in the queue ...

Marilyn Bromley  
Stansted u3a Creative Writing Group

The next edition of The Link covers both December and January; there is no separate January issue. Please email items for both months before noon on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November to [editor@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk).



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## IN THE GARDEN

In early September a few people from our Garden Group visited the Walled Garden at Cressing Barns near Braintree. The site was acquired by the Knights Templar in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and includes two beautiful barns – Barley and Wheat. A short history of the site was given by Rebecca, one of two employed gardeners; all other work depends on volunteers. The Walled Garden has been created as in Tudor times, growing plants for medicinal purposes, together with a vegetable patch and small orchard. Although colour is not in abundance at this time of year, the structure could be seen quite clearly and ideas gleaned for our own gardens. It is well worth a visit; special days are held throughout the year, so do look out for them. The best months to visit for colour are May, June or July; admission is free.



Approaching winter months is a good time for tidying sheds, cleaning and sharpening tools and sorting the clutter acquired over the summer months. Pots and seed pans can be washed and made ready for planting up in spring and plans made for what to grow next year. If you do not have a compost bin, store raked-up leaves in black plastic sacks to make leaf mould. Fill the sacks with the leaves, pierce the sides with a fork for aeration, sprinkle with water before sealing and leave them for a year to decompose. It makes great mulch for the garden. Gathering leaves like this also tidies the garden and helps to deter slugs and snails from sheltering amongst them. If you have pots with plants that may be damaged by frost or prolonged cold snaps and cannot move them, wrap the pots in bubble wrap, hessian or horticultural fleece in order to insulate them against the worst of the cold.

u3a Garden Group  
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

## FRIENDS OF ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH, THORLEY

We will be holding our Autumn Craft Fair on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November** from 11.00am -3.30pm. Refreshments will be available. Entry is free. Why not come and get some early Christmas presents? All proceeds to the church.



Sandra Ayres  
Tel: 814471

Our September meeting was a very therapeutic one. The speaker was Helen Beard, a volunteer with *Pets As Therapy* (PAT). She came along to inform and entertain us accompanied by her two adorable friendly black Labradors, Sapphire and Steele. Helen explained that PAT is a national charity founded in 1983, initially as a pilot scheme based in Derbyshire, but it proved so successful that it was rolled out nationally just six months later.

Helen told us that the charity provides a visiting service in hospitals, hospices, nursing and care homes, as well as special needs schools. There is a brilliant scheme in which a child reads to a PAT dog together with their owner and teacher. Research has shown that children become less stressed, less self-conscious and more confident as the dogs are non-judgemental. The children are encouraged to enjoy reading out loud to their new friend. All breeds of cats and dogs can potentially be part of the PAT team subject to a temperament assessment. For further details about this brilliant charity contact them on [www.petsastherapy.org](http://www.petsastherapy.org) or telephone them on 01865 671440.

At our next meeting on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall, Elsenham History Society will be talking to us about the former Elsenham Jam Factory. Everyone welcome, please join us.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Spongebob Squarepants
- 2 Seattle
- 3 Salinger
- 4 Shark
- 5 Stalin
- 6 Spartacus
- 7 Smallpox
- 8 Scapula
- 9 Sahara
- 10 Sunderland
- 11 Saffron
- 12 Sheep
- 13 Sodium
- 14 Samhainophobia
- 15 Supergran

S S S S S S S S S S S S S S



## THE PLACE ON THE HILL

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

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

A new Line Dancing group is now up and running. To have some fun turn up on Thursdays 1.30pm-2.15pm in St John's Hall. The exception is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month when we have our monthly meeting. The line dancing costs £5 per lesson and is suitable for all abilities. For further information please contact Barbara, email: [bafidell@gmail.com](mailto:bafidell@gmail.com). A new Rumikub (playing cards) group has also just started. Please look online to find out all the details or ask at the next meeting.



The u3a movement has planted almost 10,000 trees as part of our u3a Anniversary Woodland. The trees, although still small, are growing well, having survived the hottest and driest summer in South Wales in modern history!

The speaker at our next monthly meeting is Ray Clark, who will be giving a witty and humorous talk entitled *I Could Say Something Brilliant at Any Moment*. This is on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 1.30pm** for 2.00pm in St John's Hall. Ray will tell us how his career started in commercial radio in the UK and the USA.

Eileen Quinn  
Email: [stanstedu3a@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedu3a@gmail.com)



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

Finals' Day for the annual Club Championships was played on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September followed by a social afternoon barbecue. Results are as follows:

- Ladies' Singles: Sandra Ayres beat defending champion Daphne Lunnon in a two-hour three setter 6-4, 3-6, 6-3



- Men's Singles: James Thorpe beat defending champion Jon Purshouse in another two-hour three setter epic 6-1, 6-7, 6-4
- Father and son duo Andy and Sam Constantinou retained their title in the Men's Doubles, beating new members John Stone and James Thorpe, 6-2, 6-1
- The Mixed Doubles championship was won by Sandra Ayres and John Stone who defeated Daphne Lunnon and Michael Wilde
- In the Mixed Doubles Plate tournament, Louise Chalk and Mark Harris beat husband and wife combo, Kate and Paul Hucknall 6-1, 6-1
- The men's plate was won by Andy Constantinou who defeated another new member Tom Baker 6-4, 5-7, 6-2
  - The Roger Loveday trophy for most improved player of the year was won by Louise Chalk.



We are holding a Christmas Karaoke evening on 13<sup>th</sup> December at the Day Centre. Please check out our website or email me for details about our club.

Debbie Lane  
Email: [contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.spartansouthmidlandsleague.co.uk

Our first team spent most of last month playing at Dunstable, Milton Keynes and Bedford, and are looking forward to playing home league fixtures. However there will be one Saturday when we play Raunds Town away in the League Cup, which again highlights our concern when we pointed out to the FA that placing our Club in the Spartan South Midlands league (SSML) was a ridiculous decision. Our form has not been up to par, but everyone is working hard to address this; our players are committed to two training sessions weekly. It has also been a mixed start to the season for the Over 45s, although they too are adding players which helps team selection. The two youth teams have completed their round of Sunday morning home games at Hargrave Park and will play their remaining home fixtures at Good Easter. They are both currently doing extremely well in their respective leagues and cups.

Off the field the Club had a visit from the FA Ground Grading team who were inspecting our facilities to ensure we meet the necessary grading level. The FA is building a database of all clubs that compete in the National League System; this is in order to perhaps be eligible for funding via the Premier League Stadium Fund or the Football Foundation. We hold our breath! Finally the Club will once again be laying a wreath at this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service in honour of those who made sacrifices on our behalf.

### Fixtures at Hargrave Park in late October and November

31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Real Bedford SSML Premier Division	7.45pm
	(this fixture is a late addition)	
4 <sup>th</sup> Nov	London Lions SSML Premier Division	3.00pm
25 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Cockfosters SSML Premier Division	3.00pm



Tom Williams  
Tel: 07921 403842

## STANSTED BOWLS CLUB



We had our last bowls match on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, congratulations to our winner Graham Ingold. The green has now been successfully put to bed. Great big thank you to all the many Club members who were able to help, it is a mammoth task. Now we continue to sweep worm casts, and removal of leaves continues.

We are holding our Christmas Fayre on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December** at the Club; further details will be in the December/January Link.

Doreen Scraggs  
Hon Secretary  
Tel: 07881 852833 or 815036  
Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net



## Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

"Young players should be encouraged to try skills without fear of failing". Arsene Wenger.

Trivia question on sport: *Who is the best cricket coach in Essex and Cambridgeshire?* Answer: Matt Cope of Stansted Cricket Club who is Essex Cricket Board Coach of the Year. He has worked tirelessly to develop our ever-growing young talent and it is fantastic to have his efforts acknowledged.



One of England's finest opening batsmen standing next to Alastair Cook from Essex

Our own awards:

- **Ben Sammons** - 514 runs; they were not all bludgeoned to Cow Corner
- **Ben Baker** - 19 wickets (19 more than me and I bowl). He looked disinterested for all of them - hell of a player. Imagine if he cared
- **Danny Elliott** wins a special prize for getting run out in 27% of his innings. It is apparently not his fault
- **Matt Cope** will have to invest in a feather duster as he scoops yet more silverware for winning *What in the blue blazes was that? Award*. He attempted to field a ball away at Willingale moving as quick as a Mississippi policeman (Veep viewers will get it) ... reached said ball ... then fell on to the ball which did not prevent it trickling over the rope.

That is all folks! I am wondering what I will write about in the off-season; please email me with literally any ideas, but do not say cricket.

Robin Keck  
Tel: 07717 571791  
Email: rkeck@hogarthdavidslloyd.com

### October Meeting

To celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, Club members Paul and Sandra Embleton decided to take a cruise to the islands of Polynesia and Melanesia. They gave a presentation entitled *Our Travels: Flora from around the World*. They flew to Tahiti then transferred to a small cruise liner, which would be their base as they travelled across the Pacific Ocean, island hopping towards Tonga and Fiji. Using a series of slides, members were able to enjoy the tropical flora and fauna which each island offered. The colour, size and variety of flowers, tropical ferns and trees growing on these islands was breathtaking.



Experts in meteorology, horticulture and astronomy held lectures whilst sailing towards the next port of call. In this way the passengers could understand and appreciate what they had experienced and were about to see. On every island the travellers were welcomed with big smiles. The islanders were eager to show off their local customs and share aspects of their culture such as dancing, food and crafts; they encouraged everyone to have a go or to try the local delicacies.



### November Meeting

Angelikka Mead will give a talk and flower demonstration entitled *Christmas*. This will be on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November** 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting. Everyone is welcome; members free, visitors £5.

Maralyn Harris  
Tel: 07919 478144

The October talk was given by John Rhodes and his subject was the tree-lined Warwick Road in Bishop's Stortford. It runs from London Road parallel to Dunmow Road, and is sealed at the far eastern end to prevent it being used as a rat run for traffic. The road has a long history and is part of the Hockerill Estate, whose development can be traced back to Sir Walter Gilbey. His family had a long and distinguished association with Bishop's Stortford through various and very successful business ventures in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The family became wealthy and influential and were friends with the Prince of Wales. The road itself had a rich complement of housing from simple cottages to grand houses and is one of the most sought-after locations in the area. John has lived in the same house for many years and it is unusual in the fact that it has an exceptionally large garden of some 400 feet. When the majority of the houses were built in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they were offered with an average purchase price of £350 for a detached or £600 for a pair of semi-detached houses. John's talk was enhanced by numerous photos and drawings which helped to bring this fascinating subject even more to life.



Chairman Dave Perry thanked John for an extremely interesting talk and said how much we appreciated him coping with the problems faced, as the microphone decided not to work that evening; and also that he had asked for his fee for this evening's talk be given to the food bank. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre; the title will be *Local Postcards* by Paul Embleton. All are welcome.

Edward Taub  
Tel: 816932

Email: [taub8jr@btinternet.com](mailto:taub8jr@btinternet.com)

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*We look forward to hearing from you!*

## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron ATC	Squadron Chairman: Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Michael Dodd Tel: 07808 635652 Email: chair.494@rafac.mod.gov.uk	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Bowls Club	Doreen Scraggs Mob: 07881 852833 Home: 815036 Email: doreenscraggs@talktalk.net	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Emma Croutcher Email: croutchere@gmail.com	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Tennis Club	Debbie Lane Tel: 07870 971983 Email: debbielane@gmail.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stansted.net
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	u3a	Susan Sedgbeer Email: bertiestar@gmail.com
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Neighbourhood Watch	Linz Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
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

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

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