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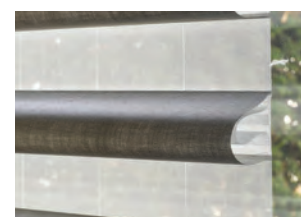
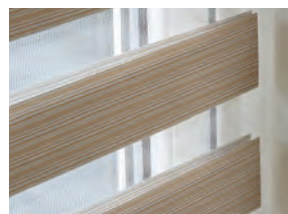
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Front cover
Santa at the Mill
 by Trevor Lloyd
 Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography



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 or telephone 813680

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE (there is no January issue)

Please email editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on **9th Jan.** Submissions should be in Word or typed into an email, maximum 300 words, and may be subject to editing. Please send photographs (**preferably landscape**) as separate jpg.

DISCLAIMER Opinions in The Link reflect those of the authors and contributors. Publication (on paper or electronically) of articles, advertisements or product/services information does not constitute endorsement by The Link nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

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CHRISTMAS EVENTS



CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

St John's Church of England

Sunday 8th December

4.00pm Christingle Service

Saturday 21st December

4.00pm Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December

9.30am Holy Communion

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

9.30pm Bethlehem Mass, first Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

9.30am Holy Communion

St Theresa's Catholic Church

Sunday 22nd December

8.30am and 10.0am Mass

3.00 pm Christmas Carols *open to anyone in the village*
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

4.30pm Vigil Mass for Children and Families

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

8.30am and 10.00am Mass

New Year's Day Wednesday 1st January

12.00 pm Mass

Stansted Free Church

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am Sunday Worship

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Carols

Stansted Quakers

Sunday 22nd December

10.30am Meeting for Worship



MANUDEN CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Our village Christmas Tree Festival is in St Mary's Church, Manuden on **Saturday 7th** and **Sunday 8th December** 11.00am-4.00pm. There will be about 30 trees of all shapes and sizes, decorated by various groups from in and around the village. Tea, coffee and cake will be available as well as a craft stall, with things to buy. There will be activities and crafts for the children, and informal carol singing amongst the trees will be at about 3.00pm both days. Entrance by donation please.



Glynis Prothero



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Churches Together in Stansted welcome everyone for a Celebration of Christmas with Carols on the land adjacent to St Mary's School, Forest Hall Park on **Saturday 21st December** 4.00pm-4.45pm. We are fortunate to have the Bishop's Stortford Brass Band once again. This is a standing event, so please bring your own chair if you need one. Everyone is encouraged to bring lanterns and torches to create a festive atmosphere. I look forward to seeing you there.

David Morson
Tel: 850209



www.southmillarts.co.uk

Join Robin Hood and his band of heroes in this year's pantomime. From **Saturday 7th December-Saturday 4th January**, jump into this exciting pantomime adventure in the magical Sherwood Forest. A cast of all singing, all dancing West End actors take to the stage in Bishop's Stortford's premier professional pantomime. Brought to you by the company behind previous hit shows *Cinderella* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Expect great songs, big laughs and lots of audience participation.



As we make our way into the new year, January is the month of comedy. *Market Theatre's Adult Panto Company* are back on tour and out to corrupt another classic fairy tale beyond recognition with *The Adult Panto: Jack and his Giant Stalk* on **Tuesday 7th January**. As seen on *RuPaul's Drag Race UK*, La Voix brings us *The Red Ambition Tour* on **Saturday 18th January**, with live vocals, a band and side-splitting comedy. On **Friday 24th January**, Harry Hill joins us to warm up ahead of his brand-new UK tour. For his much-anticipated return to stand-up after six years, Richard Herring comes to us on **Friday 31st January** with his tour *Can I Have My Ball Back?* For more information about everything that is happening at South Mill Arts this season, please take a look at our website.

Seren Stephen
Tel: 710200

Email: info@southmillarts.co.uk



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

We are so looking forward to Christmas at the farm as there will be so much to do. There will be a gift from Santa himself and there will also be festive story time with a hot chocolate and cookie and, absolutely not to be missed, is the Santa Sleigh Train driven by Santa and his helpers. Afterwards, a snowy walk through our winter Woodland wonderland is a must. There will also be plenty of Christmas crafts to enjoy and of course, the animals all have to have a fuss made of them and maybe a few treats too. Do keep a look out for our exciting Christmas plans. These events will be on throughout December, but make sure you keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our Christmas opening times. Booking is essential on our website; you do not want to miss out on all the festive fun. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.



These events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals and we can only do this with your help and support. We look forward to seeing you in the new year and merry Christmas to you all. Thank you so much.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

STANSTED TWINNING ASSOCIATION

www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/twinning

Christmas Rock and Roll Bingo

We invite you to an evening of fun on **Saturday 7th December** 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Touchpoint. Tables are up to eight people. Please book your ticket in advance by emailing us; and don't worry if you are on your own as we can find you a table to join on the night. If you do not use email, please telephone the Parish Council on 813214. Tickets are £7.50 to include a glass of mulled wine and snacks. There is a prize for each game winner and proceeds will go towards Stansted Youth Club's trip to Rungis. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the association.

Geraldine Allars
Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

CAM VALLEY CREMATORIUM

www.camvalleycrematorium.co.uk

Christmas Carol and Memorial Service

Join us on **Friday 13th December** at 6.30pm for our Christmas service, when you can light a candle in memory of a loved one, leave a personal message on our Christmas tree using one of our tags, or write a Christmas card for your loved one and post it in our memorial post-box. Light refreshments will be provided.



You can find the crematorium on Field Farm Drive, Great Chesterford CB10 1FE. Tel 01799 533160 or email: camvalley@westerleighgroup.co.uk for more details.

Karen Bayford

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1 Number of ghosts in *A Christmas Carol*
- 2 Actor who played six roles in *The Polar Express*
- 3 Scrooge's first name
- 4 Names of Santa's reindeer that begin with a D
- 5 Country that started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree
- 6 Highest grossing Christmas film of all time
- 7 Total number of gifts given in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*
- 8 Merry Christmas in Spanish
- 9 Best-selling Christmas song ever
- 10 First company to use Santa Claus in advertising
- 11 Names of the three wise men
- 12 Spirit traditionally poured then lit on a Christmas pudding
- 13 Two items that bring *Frosty the Snowman* to life
- 14 Number of days between Christmas and Epiphany
- 15 Angel who visited Mary

Compiled by Tricia Bromley

Answers on page 27



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the final edition of The Link for 2024, as well as the first issue for 2025. We have a special Christmas Quiz, thanks to Tricia Bromley, which you may have already seen on page 3. Another challenge to the grey cells is on page 11 with a very unusual and intriguing picture of a skull – but whose skull is it?

The beautiful front cover was taken last Christmas at the Windmill. Thanks to Trevor Lloyd for this lovely photograph; those bright colours are so very cheerful. However, as you will see in the Windmill article on page 9, the mill will not be in a suitable state to welcome Santa this year. Those of you who have seen it recently will realise that it is undergoing essential repairs. Hopefully all will be fixed, safe and sound for next year's Christmas visitors.

We were glad to see one more article from Susan Sedgebeer and her u3a gardeners; this is on page 11. In this item, you will see terrific ideas for Christmas gifts for the gardeners in your life. A fond farewell from The Link team to the gardening team. The Harvest Supper held on 20th October was a huge success, and great fun, judging by the happy photographs of it on page 7. Many congratulations to the groups which won awards in the Stansted in Bloom competition: St Mary's School, Touchpoint, Mountfitchet Care Home and Human Roots. See page 30 for a photograph and article. A wonderful article below demonstrates the spirit of goodwill of this season. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Ed

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

Jean, Judy and I would like to thank the two lovely young men who, unbeknown to us, paid for our lunch at Yeomans on Friday 8th November. We only found out when we came to pay the bill, by which time they had left. The waitress, Ellie, told us that they were so impressed by our friendliness and chat that they had paid for us! Thank you so much from our hearts. I do hope that they will read this and know how much it cheered our day.

Sue Hitchmough
Tel: 814265



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

There was a last-minute alteration to the programme for our October meeting as our booked entertainers, Rex Freeman and Rosemary Wheeler, were unable to appear due to ill health. Fortunately our secretary Betty Francis came up trumps, hosting a very entertaining quiz and consequences game. Our competition for a childhood photo came into its own with a *put the name to a face* game with quite hilarious results! In addition to all this we enjoyed coffee cup cakes with our hot drinks, also produced by Betty as it was the big 80th birthday month for member Val Robertson.

Looking ahead, our December meeting will be a members' only meeting. Our usual open meetings will resume in the new year on **Wednesday 15th January** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall when Tony Wellings will be entertaining us. His subject: *Bygone Household Items*. We look forward to seeing you there. Until then we wish all our members and readers of The Link a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

Stansted's music lovers, please make a note in your diaries that on **Sunday 26th January** at 3.00pm in St John's Church you can counter the chills of winter by coming along to enjoy the fiery heat of a virtuoso piano recital. The young keyboard wizard Victor Maslov (not to be confused with his namesake, the pioneer of 4-4-2 football!) will be showing off his skills as part of the Countess of Munster Musical Trust Recital Scheme. Russian-born Victor has been praised as *one of those people who is close to all-round mastery of his repertoire* by the New York Concert Review, following his performance at the Weill Recital Hall.



Beginning his studies at Moscow's Gnessin Special School of Music, he later graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2021, when he received the Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Rose Bowl for his achievements. He has amassed armfuls of international prizes and awards in the years since. Victor's programme is to be confirmed, but we can confidently expect musical fireworks as well as plenty of warm Russian soul. Tickets: adults £15, concessions £12, under 21s free, available on the door. Bring along the young musicians in your life to hear where their piano practice could lead them!

Richard Allaway
Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk



St Mary's Church
Manuden

Christmas Tree Festival

11 am - 4 pm
Sat 7th & Sun 8th Dec

Carol singing 3 pm both days

Tea, coffee and cake
Children's activities and crafts
Goods to Buy
Entry by donation

Stansted Town Twinning

CHRISTMAS ROCK 'n' ROLL BINGO

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 7th Dec

Touchpoint

Tickets £7.50 incl glass mulled wine

Tables of up to 8

Call 813214 or email:

twinning@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk



Green Waste Skip Dates

Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

8th Dec
Last skip until Spring

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December

3	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
5	Thu	History Society Quiz	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
7	Sat	Stansted Twinning Bingo	Touchpoint 7 for 7.30 pm
7 Sat / 8 Sun		Christmas Tree Festival	Manuden Church 11 am - 4 pm
8	Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
10	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
12	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
		Huw Johnson Carol Service	St John's Church 7.30 pm
13	Fri	Christmas Memorial Service	Cam Valley Crematorium 6.30 pm
20	Fri	Fun Place Christmas Special	Free Church Hall 9.15 am
21	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am
		Celebration of Christmas	Next to St Mary's School 4 pm

January

7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Thu	Link copy due in today	before noon
		W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
14	Tue	The Arts Society B S	South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am
		RSPB	Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
16	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
18	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am
25	Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
26	Sun	Music@stansted	St John's Church 3 pm



Monthly Meetings

Bishop's Park Community
Centre CM23 4DA

7.30 pm Tue 10th Dec
Ben Andrew of RSPB images

7.30 pm Tue 14th Jan
Howard Vaughan
aka The Blue-Eyed Birder

Visitors Welcome Entry £7
Tel: Peter 07876 295456
www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



10 am - noon
Sat 21st Dec
Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs
Fish ~ Beef, Pork, Lamb
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam
Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare
Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts
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Celebration of Christmas



Carols and Readings
with B S Brass Band

4 pm Sat 21st Dec
Next to St Mary's School

Words provided - bring a lantern
or torch and your own chair
Suitable for all ages - please join us

The next issue of The Link is in February
To advertise your event please
email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by 9th January



3 pm Sun 26th Jan
St John's Church

Victor Maslov Piano
Programme includes works
from the Russian masters

Tickets: adults £15, conc £12
under 21s free. Pay on the door



10 am - noon
Sat 18th Jan
Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs
Fish ~ Beef, Pork, Lamb
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam
Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare
Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts
Refillable Laundry and
Edible Products

Refreshments and Free Parking
For info and future dates tel 814052

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 14th Jan
South Mill Arts

Joaquin Sorolla known as the
Spanish Painter of Sunlight
by Gail Turner

Guests welcome Entry £7
Coffee served from 10 am
Tel 656065 for more information

STANSTED PEOPLE

LYNDA DALE

Lynda and her husband Steve are both from Rugby. The town is famed for Rugby School where the eponymous game first started when William Webb Ellis picked up the ball and ran. A chance meeting in *The Central* pub led to Lynda and Steve's love story and long-distance relationship. At the time, she was nursing in Birmingham and he was in the Royal Navy, stationed at Portsmouth. They both lived on the same road in Rugby but had never met before that fateful night. They have been married for 46 years. Lynda's Dad is from Trinidad in the Caribbean and her Mum from Rugby; that in itself is another romantic story.



Lynda has back issues which have required extensive surgery and she struggles with arthritis but she keeps active. She and Steve moved to this area 40 years ago due to Steve's work in London, settling in Stansted 33 years ago, for a quieter life! Lynda went to work for Sainsbury's for six months but ended up staying 24 years, only stopping due to health issues. She became involved with St Mary's Church 12 years ago as key holder when the *Friends of St Mary's* group was in its infancy. The church was declared redundant in 1990 but is still a consecrated building. Funerals can be held there as well as six other services per year but there are strict criteria concerning its use. The aim of the Friends is to have an open church, clean and welcoming to all; the group also plans events to help raise funds in aid of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Lynda took over chairmanship eight years ago and introduced champing seven years ago. St Mary's is a very popular venue with visitors from all over the world. Champing is camping in church, with bedding available. Fairy lights add to the magical set up. The churchyard project has been running for four years with graves researched, together with photos and stories of people buried here available on file. Scouts and other volunteers work very hard tidying the churchyard and have received numerous awards over recent years. Lynda says that there is a wealth of history both in the church and in the churchyard, and it is our duty to preserve and cherish it for all to enjoy.

Lynda and Steve volunteer for *Company at Christmas*, a Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford initiative. The aim is to provide a meal and company for elderly and lonely people on Christmas Day. This might be the only human contact some of these people get over the festive period. Steve allocates drivers to guests for transport to and from the Methodist Church. Lynda visits guests to check on their requirements and mobility issues, and she visits the Stansted guests on the list. Both love travelling and have been on 26 cruises to date: up the Amazon, New Zealand, Australia and the Caribbean to name a few. Both Lynda and Steve adore the Lake District, Norfolk and wonderful Whitby. There is still a big world out there to explore! They have two children and four grandchildren ranging from three to 14 years of age.

Ed



www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Managed Migration is the process by which people are being moved from legacy benefits to Universal Credit. Since the beginning of November, people who are claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA) will start to receive migration notices, all of which are expected to be sent by the end of December 2025. There will be transitional protection so you are not financially worse off but wait until you receive a migration notice and claim by the deadline on your letter. If you are worried about what the change might mean for you, please contact the Citizens Advice *Help to Claim Service* on 0800 144 8 444 or go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/before-you-apply/moving-to-universal-credit-from-other-benefits.

Switching is Back

Over 80% of households are now on standard energy tariffs, with maximum prices dictated by the energy price cap. Having increased in October, the cap will probably rise again sometime this winter and remain at that level until January, when the change takes place. For those willing to switch providers, you could try shopping around for the best deal. Emily, Sarah and Hayley, our energy specialists, can offer help and advice on this and other issues including benefits advice, checking eligibility for Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments, fuel vouchers, debt advice, home improvement grants and energy efficient behaviours.

Share the Warmth 2024

We have re-launched our Campaign, *Share the Warmth Fund for 2024*. Money donated will be used to provide emergency support for local people who have to choose between eating and heating. Our previous campaign raised over £5,200 and supported 109 people over 10 months. So please give what you can. To donate please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/uttlesford-citizens-advice-bureau-1078222.

Jo Hancock

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

STANSTED VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

Nearly 70 villagers came to this year's event and a great time was had by all. As usual our tasty supper was supplied by Churchills followed by satsumas kindly donated by the Co-op and Tesco. Helen and Ann worked hard during the afternoon setting up the tables which looked very attractive. After supper there was the customary entertainment provided the churches - some serious and some hilarious. A few of the highlights are below.



A modern take on *Little Red Riding Hood* from Aileen and Sue



Mike the hapless computer user calls Alan on the Microsoft Helpdesk



Dave led us in some rousing well-known songs



The story of a short-sighted hedgehog from Babs and Len



Lively saxophone playing by Sheila accompanied by Anne



St John's Choir treated us to some beautiful songs including *The Fruits of the Land* by Ogden




The *Can Can* as you have never seen it before by Kathy and Liz, accompanied by Colin

The supper is for everyone, not just those connected with the churches, and It was good to see some new faces this year. Many thanks to everyone who made it such a success. There was some money left over which we were pleased to be able to send to the Gaza and Lebanon appeal. See you there next year!

Marion Dyer

Photographs by Marion Dyer and Eileen Quinn



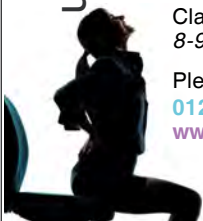


Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy

Hazel Williams is one of the few osteopathic practitioners who specialises in both structural and cranial osteopathy to treat a wide range of patients from babies to the elderly, from the immobile to athletes. Her treatment can help with: back, neck, joint, arthritic, muscle and sciatic pain, trapped nerves, sports injuries, headaches and migraine.

She also incorporates acupuncture to aid pain relief and provides specially formulated pilates classes to help improve and maintain fitness.

Classes held at: *The Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill.*
8-9pm Mon / 9-10am Sat.

Please call to book an appointment or a class
01279 813371 or **07973 409675**
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We are now in our new printing year
There are a few spaces still available including on the cover
See www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising
Call Marion on 814059
Email: adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk

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IN MEMORIAM

EDNA WRIGHT

30th April 1925-19th November 2023



Bishop's Stortford Choral Society (BSCS) is performing the *Verdi Requiem* at Bishop's Stortford College on **Saturday 7th December** in memory of its former singer and long-standing Stansted resident, Edna Wright, who sadly died last year at the grand old age of 98.

Edna was born at Fulham Nursing Home. When she was seven, she moved to Sheering with her parents and three siblings. This was the start of her love affair with the area, all things to do with nature, the countryside and animals. She attended Herts and Essex High School and served as a land girl during WWII, based at farms in Burton End and Stansted. She met her husband Alan at a dance class and they were married in 1949, initially living with Edna's parents, who had moved to Bishop's Stortford, before setting up home in Stansted in 1951. They ran a successful photographic business there for many years and lived in Stansted for 71 years, until they moved to Sussex to be close to their daughter, Jackie.

Those who knew her will remember her love of animals, caring for rescued donkeys and ponies; her contributions to the Guiding movement, being awarded the Thanks badge; her support for St Mary's Church in the form of bell ringing, cleaning brass and flower arranging; and being a stalwart member of Ugley WI. Her photography of the local area and wildlife was appreciated by many. Singing was one of her greatest joys, in the local church choir and as part of WI entertainment, but above all as part of BSCS, with whom she sang for many years. It was a big part of her life and gave her enormous pride and pleasure. Before she died, she asked her daughter to support BSCS to perform one of the choral works she had so enjoyed during her life. For more information, or if you wish to follow in Edna's footsteps and sing with BSCS, visit www.singwithbscs.org.uk.

Helen Miller



RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Christmas is the time of year when most of us receive post with *real* stamps on the envelope. If you can spare a few minutes to cut out the stamps we would be delighted to relieve you of them! They will help to raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) along with foreign and old UK coins. We would be grateful if you could place them in the box outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill along with the other items for recycling: spectacles with or without cases, ink cartridges, mobile phones, iPads and tablets - maybe you will receive a new one for Christmas? Please make sure all personal data has been erased; the easiest way to do this is by a *factory reset*. It would be helpful if items could be placed in a paper or plastic bag or envelope; please use a separate one for each category and do not mix items. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church; alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

The long-delayed Scheduled Monument Consent for repointing the brickwork at the mill has been granted, and work started on 15th October. We do not know how long it will take to complete. Very cold weather is bad for this kind of work and in the case of severe frost, it might have to be paused until conditions improve; but we are hopeful it will be completed by the time the worst of the weather hits us. Sadly, the ongoing conservation work means that we will not be able to stage our *Santa at the Mill* event this year. We appreciate that there will be some disappointed children out there, but unfortunately the mill is not currently safe enough to welcome visitors. Santa will be around at other venues in the village over the festive season so there will be other opportunities to meet up with him.

Although the turnout for our Race Night was a little disappointing, we still raised just over £400, for which we must thank the local businesses which sponsored the event: YZ Minimarket, Autopoint, Murdoch Estate Agents, Daniel Robinson Funeral Directors, HNE Media, Canfield Carpentry and Chris Lodge and Sons of Dunmow. This was our first event to be held at the Bowls Club which is comfortable and welcoming, and we hope to be able to use it again in the future. You may have read in the November Link about the valuable cuff links that were discovered in a box of bric-a-brac donated to the fête. I am pleased to say that the article has resulted in the owner coming forward to claim their property, so although we missed out on a windfall, we received a generous donation from the grateful owner.

Trevor Lloyd
Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk



ST MARY'S SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

The first term of this year has been busy and exciting, and I want to tell you about a couple of special things that have happened here. In Key Stage 2 we use a computer programme called *Spelling Shed*, which is used throughout the world. Holly class noticed they were quite high on the global ratings of how many minutes the class as a whole had practised for. Almost jokingly I set them the challenge of getting to the top of the global list; little did I think they would achieve this so I accordingly told them that they could have a day doing fun things at school if they managed it. Lo and behold, 48 hours later they were literally top of the world! Mention must go to Imran and Nicholas for an extra special effort. Well done Holly class!

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming author Helen Moss into school. UKS2 had read her gripping adventure *The Phoenix Code*, set in Egypt, as a class book. It cleverly entwines an ancient mystery and a modern-day adventure: think Indiana Jones. Hawthorn, Holly and Oak classes loved the book and experienced a roller-coaster of emotions as they navigated all the twists and turns, near-misses, mummies and drama. Helen gave the children an amazing insight into how to plan and write a book and was really impressed by the children's ideas, imagination and enthusiasm.

Thank you to those who made it to one of our Open Days in November. If you did not manage to make it and might be interested in a place for your child, please contact the school office to book an appointment. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas.



Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk



This autumn term has been a whirlwind of activity, and the children have been truly exceptional. They have shown enthusiasm and dedication in their learning, tackling each challenge with energy and curiosity, learning about topics such as Guy Fawkes, the Stone Age and Fairytales. We are looking forward to our Christingle Service at church, which we hope will bring a sense of togetherness and reflection, tying in with our Birchanger B of Belonging. There will be a Nativity performed by Starfish and Octopus Class. Outside the classroom, the children embrace nature through outdoor activities and participate in a special Spirituality Day, connecting with the world around them in meaningful ways. We will have a Christmas lunch together and a festive fair. The term has been a truly memorable one, full of joy, learning, and community spirit. The children are definitely ready for a rest and to enjoy the excitement of Christmas with their families.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place is open every **Friday, including school holidays, from 09.15am-11.30am** in the Free Church Hall. All visitors are welcome; carers, parents, children and 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 join in with a Sing-Along at around 10.30am. A highlight of some mornings is watching the bin lorry go past, and this is followed by enthusiastic singing of *The Wheels on the Bin Lorry Go Round and Round*.



Now colder weather is returning, why not come along for a couple of hours on a Friday morning and help save on home energy costs. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. Please make a note in your diary that our Christmas Event is on **Friday 20th December** including activities and a special visitor.



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

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GUESS THE OBJECT

Do any readers know what this is? It was found by Tony Wellings in the Lime Kiln Lane area.



We would be pleased to hear your suggestions. Please email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk. All will be revealed in the next edition of the Link!

IN THE GARDEN

It can be a tricky business choosing Christmas gifts, but gardeners should prove among the easiest to please with a wide range of suitable things to buy them. Books on gardening are ideal, offering inspiration, techniques and information to enjoy during the winter, and serving as helpful references throughout the year. Favourites among our Garden Group members include David Austin's *English Roses*, a beautifully illustrated book on rose varieties, and the *RHS Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants*, a thorough guide to over 15,000 plants, ideal for the committed gardener. For a more affordable option, Dr D J Hessayon's horticultural series covers specific topics in easy-to-follow detail, all well-regarded by garden enthusiasts. Aside from books, practical tools are always welcome gifts. High-quality hand tools such as secateurs, trowels and hand forks are durable essentials for any gardener. Ergonomic tools are particularly useful for older gardeners, reducing strain during repetitive tasks. Accessories like sturdy, thorn-resistant gloves or kneelers with pockets for tools make daily gardening more comfortable.

For those who prefer sustainable gardening, compost bins and wormeries are thoughtful options, supporting eco-friendly gardening practices by helping produce nutrient-rich compost. Luxury gifts include heated propagators, stylish outdoor pots, or garden subscriptions delivering seasonal seeds or plants throughout the year. Practical, thoughtful, and full of potential, these gifts will bring pleasure and productivity to any gardener's year ahead. Gardening offers numerous joys and benefits, enhancing both mental and physical health. It has been proven that gardening can reduce stress and anxiety, providing a calm escape from daily pressures. As gardens have become an essential resource for our ever-diminishing wildlife there has never been a better time to encourage everyone to get gardening.



u3a Garden Group

STANSTED IS WELL READ

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd December** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, when we will be discussing last month's book choice *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty. The title refers to the shabby apartment building that houses the story's protagonist Blandine Watkins, and several other ex-foster children who are all searching for meaning in their lives. It explores how our lives, even those that meet in the most fleeting moments or maybe not even directly at all, have long-lasting effects on each other. At that meeting we will each bring a festively wrapped book we have enjoyed reading for our annual Christmas book swap. We will discuss the individual books chosen at our new year meeting on Tuesday 7th January. Have you read any good books you can recommend? Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

Outdoor learning has been a key focus within our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) this term and we have been making use of all our fantastic outside space, particularly the field and forest area. The children have enjoyed a variety of activities, using what they have learned in the classroom and applying them to outside environments. Learning opportunities beyond the classroom greatly benefit our children and staff as they support mental wellbeing, help develop teamwork and resilience, and enable children to enjoy a natural and ever-changing environment.



The children have had opportunities to explore shape, colour and number; learn about and build homes for the different animals they may find in the forest; use a variety of tools to work with material they have found in the forest; create art-work and musical instruments using materials from the forest; and develop their gross motor skills through climbing. They thoroughly enjoy their time outdoors and this is something that is continued throughout the school with each class having half-termly outdoor learning sessions.

Rachel Grant
Head of Learning Support and Early Years Foundation Stage
Tel: 813626

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NATURAL BEEKEEPING

Fascinating things about Honeybees

They are amazing little bugs; they can walk, fly, communicate with their antennae and pheromones as well as by doing a waggle dance. Yes, three methods of communication. They make an enzyme that turns sugar water into honey. Nectar from flowers is essentially sugar water with an enzyme added, then dehydrated. In fact most of the honey you buy in supermarkets, even though it is labelled *honey*, is just cane sugar with a manmade enzyme. Up to 90% is still legally honey not syrup, but that is another story. Bees make toxin; they can see colours and infrared. They can sense static electricity on flowers and generate static as they fly, and make wax from glands in their body. In the hive they make propolis, the colony's immune system. This is a glue which acts as a fungicide and a bactericide which is anti-cancer. They ferment pollen and make bee bread as well as honey. The only reason they make honey is because they cannot hibernate; so they are awake all winter and need to eat and keep warm when there are no flowers. There are more wonderful facts but these are the *biggies*.

Framed box beehives

The Victorians made a few observations which they capitalised on. They realised killing the colony at the end of summer to get the honey was probably not the most productive thing to do. They wanted to have a hive where they could take the honey but keep the bees alive. They found that bees liked a certain specific space to move between the combs. Thus they were able to make frames and the bees would not build between the frames, which would have glued everything together. More next month.

Kevin Hancock

Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com

CREATIVE WRITERS COME OUT

After many months of hard work, members of the Stansted Mountfitchet Creative Writing Group are pleased and proud to announce the publication of their first anthology. *After the Twa Corbies* is a wonderful collection of short stories



containing an eclectic mix of styles and genres, from the sublime to the ridiculous. Loss, love, mystery, murder, nostalgia and humour are all there. Something for everyone at the very reasonable price of £5.00, making it an ideal Christmas stocking filler. If you love reading, like a good story but lack the time or inclination for a full-length novel, *After the Twa Corbies* fits the bill perfectly. Please email

stanstedcreativewritinggroup@gmail.com for details of how you can obtain a copy; you will be very glad you did.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale. The Society has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today. Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich, shown in the photograph below. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.



Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the *ffree grammar schole* in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.

St Edmunds College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is Grade I listed, built in the mid-1800s and designed by A W N Pugin whose best-known work is Big Ben, the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament. Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example, Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family. Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church. Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.



Ken McDonald

Secretary

Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

When I was ordained over 39 years ago, we had a big celebration at the Royal Albert Hall. We sang a song, and I can only remember the first two lines which said, *Today's the day, it's here at last*. As I approach Christmas, those words have come back to me. I love Christmas; the busyness, shopping, writing cards, decorating the house, cooking Christmas dinner and watching Christmas films. I am one of those people who love the build-up, but I am also very happy to arrive at the day and say *Today's the day, it's here at last*, and enjoy it. This is because for me and many other Christians it is about remembering the fact that God sent his Son to earth; Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the World. As the words of this poem say

As we ponder Christmas time and contemplate the season,
Help us remember the Christ, for He is the true reason
That we celebrate Christmas and make such jubilation:
He brought glad tidings of peace and the gift of salvation.
So, just another Christmas? Oh, no, may it never be.
As it was special back then, for us may it always be!

© December 2015, Loyd C Taylor Snr

As I approach Christmas, I am glad that I can still say: *Today's the day, it's here at last* and be happy, because after all these years, the miracle of that very first Christmas when Jesus was born is still true. I hope you all have a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Major Susan Robinson
The Salvation Army



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresasstansted.org

Parish Priest Fr Clement Orango
Tel: 814349
Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

Parish Administrator Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@brcdt.org

Masses
Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass
Sunday 8.30am Mass
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 5.15pm every Saturday before the Vigil Mass and by appointment.



QUAKERS

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

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

Lettings Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
Email: yvonne-wood@outlook.com

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

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





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

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

Pastoral Assistant: Kathryn West Tel: 816293
Mobile: 07880 602717
Email: kewest@btinternet.com

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

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

St John's is open most days during daylight hours. There is a special section in the Lady Chapel for private prayer.

Tree planted at St John's Church in memory of Sally Smith

In a short ceremony a White Beam Tree, recently planted in the grounds of St John's Church, has been dedicated in memory of Sally Smith. She worked with St John's Church craft group for over 20 years and provided hundreds of handmade items for sale at local craft fairs and markets, the proceeds of which went to support various projects within the church. The funding of the tree and plaque was provided by the current craft group. The family of Sally would like to thank the craft group for their very kind gesture.



Left to right

Craft Group: Kathryn Chatto, Ann Conroy, Delia Joyce, Colleen Beattie, June Winter

Family: Joanna Phillips, Alison Smith, Roy Smith, Mark Smith

Mark Smith

FROM ST JOHN'S REGISTERS

OCTOBER

Baptisms

6th Matilda Edith Olive Hill
20th Albert Vincent Ambrose

Funerals

8th Brenda Beryl Towle, age 73 - at Cam Valley
18th Winifred Bristow, age 80 - service at St John's, cremation at Parndon Wood
30th Colin Frederick Victor Joyce, age 78 - service at St John's, cremation at Cam Valley



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Gill Hulme
Tel: 504157
Email: gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk

Secretary Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579
Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for December

1st 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
8th 10.30am Len Ward
15th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Gift Service
22nd 10.30am Elizabeth Stockwell
25th 10.30am Christmas Day Carols

Preachers for January

5th 10.30am Babs Ward - New Directions
12th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Covenant Service
19th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
26th 10.30am Rev'd John Buxton

Collection for Gaza

We had a church collection for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Gaza, Lebanon and the wider Middle East. The response was wonderful, amounting to £375. We added £230 recently raised from recycling, making a total of £600. A huge thank you to church members and those who donate ink cartridges, tablets and mobile phones for recycling. Sadly, the need in that part of the world is great.



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The champing season has now ended until March next year and there will be no more green signs on the doors until bookings resume. I do know some people who are keen to come back after having stayed this season; one of my last groups of champers were astounded by the magic of staying in church. The lady is an artist and wants to come back to do some drawings. It was their first time champing but St Mary's has given that group of guests the bug!

Huge thanks to the two people who donated spring bulbs for the churchyard. It was a mammoth task planting 750 bulbs, but it is completed now. I am looking forward to the spring and a colourful display, with more primroses too. For those of you who visit the churchyard regularly, I am sure you agree that it is looking wonderful now. Huge thanks to my volunteers and the grass maintenance men; what a transformation! There is still work to do, but I am happy with how it is all progressing. A reminder of the Stansted Scouts, Cubs and Beavers' Christingle on **Saturday 7th December** at 3.30pm. Everyone is very welcome. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to welcoming you all to St Mary's in 2025.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

We were surprised to learn that there was a thriving Roman settlement in the Grange Paddock sports ground. This was the beginning of a fascinating talk given by our guest speaker, Danial Firth, at our recent meeting. The site was originally thought to be fairly unimportant. However, digs in 2019 and 2022 showed that not only was there an amazing amount of pottery and proof of iron works, but the area appeared to be a substantial trading post. Danial explained that there was a major road which ran from Colchester to St Albans called Stane Street; this road passed very close to the south of Grange Paddocks. This, plus the Stort River, was ideal for a settlement, a centre for workshops and a trading centre with easy links by road or by water. The construction of some houses was of a Germanic design with deep cellars for storage. Some residents must have been either immigrants or slaves from Europe. The settlement probably lasted about 400 years and in the later stages the religion of the population was probably Christian; a burial site was discovered where all the remains had been laid to rest with their heads pointing east. Danial concluded by saying that further investigation of the site was restricted due to the lack of funds, but hopefully that will change in the future.

After thanking Danial for a fascinating glimpse into the past, our Chairman Dave Perry reminded everyone that our website has a tremendous catalogue of information for all to read and enjoy. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 5th December** at 7.30pm at Touchpoint and will be our annual quiz evening.

Edward Taub
Email: taub8jr@btinternet.com

We are hoping for a good cold December. Towards the end of 2022 we had hard frosts for many days; the ground was frozen solid and by mid-December there was snow. We lost perennials and shrubs because it was so exceptionally cold that winter. Whereas in December 2023 we had no frost that I can recall, followed by mild temperatures in January and rain galore over the whole winter season, such that we had to cancel most of our snowdrop open days. The early season was then blighted by the slugs and snails which had overwintered, multiplied and were voracious. So, although there are risks from frosts, we have our fingers crossed for a decent blast of freezing air.



Our winter works are progressing, with lots of effort put into leaf clearance for making leaf mould. We never have enough, as we have so many trees, roses, dahlias, rhubarb and fruit bushes that benefit from it. We also put out a call for manure and have spent happy hours barrowing that around the gardens. In December we will finish those jobs and take time to reflect on what visitors enjoyed this year, to build a good calendar of events for 2025. To keep an eye on how we are getting on with our winter jobs, why not follow us through Facebook or Instagram or take a look at our *Garden News* on the front page of our website? Alternatively email me to sign up to our e-newsletter.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01371 876979
Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

**A Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to all our readers.**

We will be back in February



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Human Roots and Touchpoint

Recently we teamed up with one of the Touchpoint cookery classes. Our prize squash collection was the star ingredient and chef Luke Fishpool demonstrated delicious *Squash Tagine*, exactly what is needed with winter around the corner. The squash was donated by Human Roots and then given to all the attendees to try the recipe at home. We recommend you check out the Touchpoint website: www.thetouchpoint.org for the recipe. Local activities like this are a great example of how Human Roots gives back to the community. However we did save some for ourselves; after all we have grown and nurtured them from seed, so it seems a shame not to!



It was all hands on-deck in October as we embarked on mission clear up. The bug hotel is fully open for business thanks to volunteer Handy Alan who fixed the roof. Pruning and weeding has kept us all busy and our Christmas potatoes came early and they taste lovely. The last plantings for 2024 will be garlic, then there will be the excitement of planning for next year. Working together on the allotment is good fun, great exercise and brilliant for picking up hints and tips from each other, as well as having a cuppa and a natter. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team, please email Cathy at cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

Speaking with people at the recent Wellness event, it was clear that there is an awareness of changes in the natural world. I was told how one person's car windscreen used to be splattered with insects but no more. Others talked of the loss of plants, birds and insects. Why are changes like this happening and what can individuals do? We all look forward to Christmas and New Year. Can we think about sustainability and do things differently?

Reduce

- Agree with family members to limit the number of gifts
- Consider food waste – do we need so much? We throw away an estimated 250,000 tonnes each Christmas.

Reuse

- Unwanted gifts gathering dust can be regifted
- Wrapping paper and gift bags can be saved and reused
- Toys outgrown may be perfect for others.
- Buy in charity shops or online from used websites.

Recycle

Check if wrapping paper and cards can be recycled:

- Shiny or with glitter cannot be recycled
- Gift tags, party bags and 100 million rolls of wrapping paper are thrown away each Christmas
- Use string or ribbon to wrap rather than Sellotape.

If not this year, then how about a New Year resolution? Talk about future plans; somebody has to start. Are there any small changes you can make to how you live in 2025?

Allen MacPherson

Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com



www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14th January** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts. Coffee is available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Gail Turner on *Spanish Painter of Sunlight: Joaquin Sorolla*. Sorolla lived from 1863-1923 and was a highly successful artist; however today he is largely forgotten outside Spain and the United States. His landscapes and paintings of fishermen and children at the seaside are full of sunlight and optimism. In the dark days of January come and look forward to the warmth of the summer sun; his paintings are a real treat.



Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation £7. Our membership secretary is Jenny Savage, tel: 656065 or email: info@tasbs.org.uk. Please see our website for more details.

Michael Fitch

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

...with news of road closures affecting Stansted in the new year, two parking consultations, improvements to Bentfield play area, recent community events and details of a Youth Club fundraiser.

Cadent Roadworks

Lower Street to shut for 4 weeks in the new year

No sooner will you start to be taking down your Christmas decorations than Cadent will putting up barriers to close off Lower Street to traffic.

The utility company had intended to begin work replacing gas pipes along Lower Street in November. But delays in fitting new pipes along High Lane—work that had begun last July—meant Cadent decided to ditch their plans for Lower Street until the new year.

Starting on Monday, 6th January the street will be blocked off from the roundabout at the bottom of Chapel Hill to the junction with Grove Hill. It will stay shut for the next four weeks until Monday, 3rd February.

Between these dates the road will only be open to emergency vehicles and pedestrians, as well as to residents living off the street. The diversion will run down Church Road and up Chapel Hill. There will also be restricted access to High Lane for the duration of the roadworks.

A week later, Cadent's pipe-fitting project then moves on to Grove Hill. From Monday, 10th February this road will be closed to traffic in both directions until Friday, 7th March. As we go to press, there are no details of a diversion route and how it will operate.

For updates on these roadworks visit:

► essexhighways.org/live-traffic-map



The closures are needed to keep the public and the workforce safe while old metal gas pipes are replaced with flexible plastic ones.

Test Case Parking Consultations

Double Yellows for Croasdaile Road & Bentfield Road?

Residents living along Bentfield Road, Bentfield Causeway, and part of Croasdaile Road, are to be asked for their views on the introduction of parking restrictions in their areas. Letters from Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC) are to be sent out highlighting the pros and cons of bringing in double yellow lines to curb on-street parking — identified as being a danger to road safety in these parts of Stansted.

Bentfield Road/Causeway and Croasdaile Road have previously had application

submitted to the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP), which grants permission for parking schemes in Uttlesford. The NEPP requires schemes to have 75% community support for approval. These earlier submissions failed to meet the threshold and were rejected.

This time around the consultation will be more focused. Letters will

only be sent to those living directly along where double yellows are proposed in the hope it will be easier to meet the 75% requirement. With other parts of Stansted struggling to cope with on-street parkers, the applications will serve as test cases, allowing SMPC to gauge the level of consultation required for a scheme to win approval.

The problem posed by on-street parking is different in the two areas. The narrow pavements of Bentfield Road pose a danger to pedestrians when cars park up on the kerb and make it difficult for large vehicles to pass. Along Croasdaile Road, double yellows could deter parking on the bend that obscures the vision of passing drivers.

In both spots one possible downside could be that the use of double yellows just pushes the problem to other areas of the village as on-street parkers look for alternative free parking options. The results of the consultation and decision by NEPP will be published on our website:

► stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/highways-schemes/

The applications will serve as test cases, allowing SMPC to gauge the degree of consultation required before the NEPP will sign off on a scheme

Fireworks Extravaganza 2024

Forest Hall School Playing Fields- 9th November 2024

We would like to thank all the organisers, marshals, sponsors and vendors who helped deliver a spectacular fireworks show for thousands of residents in November. Without their hard work it would have been impossible for the village's first fireworks display in five years to have been such a success. The SMPC would like to give a special mention to Iain Rankin, Forest Hall School's caretaker, who did a fantastic job behind the scenes on the day to ensure the event passed off smoothly.



Remembrance Service

St John's Church, Memorial Gardens- 10th November 2024

*"When you go home, tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow, we gave our today"*

Open Spaces improvements

£16k invested in Bentfield play area



A crocodile swing is to be installed at Bentfield Green.

A new piece of play equipment is to be installed in time to put smiles on young faces this Christmas at the Bentfield play area. SMPC has used a £9,995 grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to buy and fit a crocodile swing in this playground. Its installation is one of a number of improvements made to the play area since a review this summer was carried out by Parish Councillors of equipment in council-run playgrounds across Stansted. Besides the purchase of the new swing, SMPC has invested £6,426 in replacing safety matting at the Bentfield playground, as well as funding fencing repairs and jet-washing existing equipment, much of which was becoming a home for algae. Bentfield has benefited from the lion-share of SMPC's playground budget for the current financial year. If you have ideas of which play area SMPC should improve in 2025, why not let us know?

► info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Stansted Youth Club

Fundraising Event - TouchPoint, Dec 7th

Among the many festive social events appearing in this edition of The Link the one we hope catches your eye is the Stansted-Rungis Twinning Association's Rock'n'Roll Bingo at TouchPoint on 7th December.

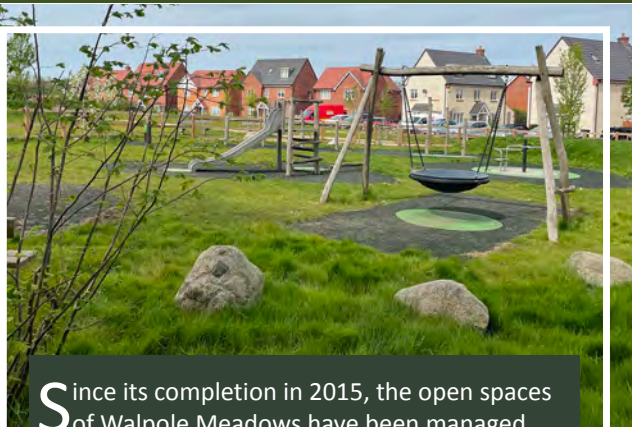
Admittedly, there is an element of self-interest — the Youth Club is partly SMPC-funded and is an active representative for twinning activities. But beyond the fun and mulled wine to enjoy, the fund-raiser could provide a truly life-enhancing and inspirational experience.

"Many of the young people at the Youth Club will never have travelled further than Southend," says a youth worker at Faircroft House. "It will be really good to give them the opportunity to visit Rungis."

It has been 12 months since SMPC awarded the contract to run the youth club at the Peter Kirk Centre to Faircroft House CIC. The community interest company operates out of Saffron Walden and specialises in working with young people in rural areas, where a lack of opportunities can lead to social isolation and impact on mental health.

It is fair to say, Faircroft House has revitalised the Youth Club in the year that it has been running activities in Stansted. Over 25 young people show up now regularly at the Peter Kirk Centre for movie nights, console game competition, indoor

Walpole Meadows Handover



Since its completion in 2015, the open spaces of Walpole Meadows have been managed by the developer Bloor Homes. This will soon change.

Twelve months on from the Section 106 office at Uttleford District Council signing a letter of Satisfaction Completion, SMPC this February will take on the upkeep of the play and picnic areas, allotments and orchard, as well as for hedge and tree maintenance in some areas of Walpole Meadows.

There are 14 allotment plots that will come under Parish Council control after the handover. These have already been allocated to Stansted residents, and currently there are 22 on the waiting list. SMPC continues to work with the section 106 office at Uttleford — who administers the transfer of property assets from housing developments to lower tier authorities — and Bloor Homes to resolve outstanding maintenance issues at the open spaces of Walpole Meadows ahead of the handover.

**We wish you
a Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year. See
you in 2025!**

The Parish Council will be closed from Thursday, 19th December reopening on Monday, 6th January. Contact our Parish Councillors for assistance should you need to reach SMPC during this time. Their details are listed on page 23 and our website:

www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

and outdoor sports, or cook up some food. This is a four-fold increase on the numbers attending the club previously.

Faircroft House plan to take a small party of six to Rungis. French safe-guarding rules preclude allowing young people from staying with host families, instead the group of youth clubbers will be put in an Airbnb in Rungis. But there will be plenty of opportunity to meet people their own age while in France, and there are hopes of a return visit by the members of the French town's own Youth Club will cement community ties further.

Between now and the planned visit next May, Faircroft House will put on several fundraising events to try to cover the cost of the trip.

You can play your part, of course, by signing up for Stansted's Rock'n'Roll Bingo at TouchPoint on 7th December at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7.50 including a glass of mulled wine & snacks. There's also a licensed bar and music.

► twinning@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

Office Hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-2pm

Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

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Tom van de BILT | ☎ 07710426850

tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange.

If you wish to attend virtually, look for Zoom details in the agenda documents on our website:

4th December *Windmill Sub-committee (7pm);*

Finance & General Purposes (8pm)

11th December *Full Council*

8th January 2025 *F&GP*

15th January 2025 *Full Council*

22nd January 2025 *Open Spaces*

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi BADENOCH MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA ☎ 01-799-506349

email: office@northwestessexconservatives.org.uk

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email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk

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Meet-up Events: TouchPoint 10-11am **5th December**

TouchPoint 9.30-10.30am **13th December**

LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

Tuesday 9am-1pm **Wednesday** 2pm-5.30pm

Thursday 2pm-7pm **Saturday** 9am-5pm

ADVICE SESSIONS

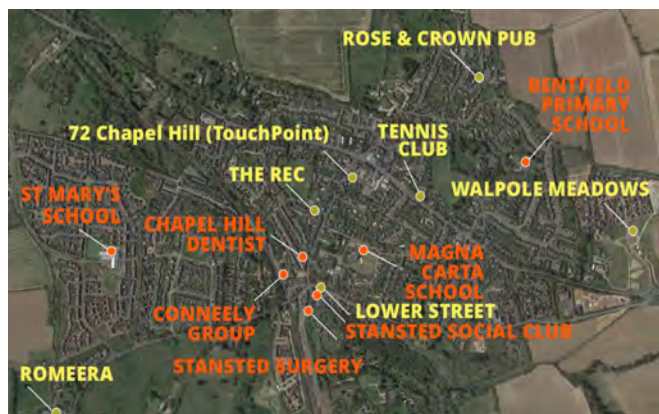
Uttlesford Citizen's Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 10am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during SMPC reception hours via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Ask at our reception for details. *Peabody Trust* run a drop-in service on **Thursday, December 12th and January 9th** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing, job training and 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! *Food shares* 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 ☎ 07572 114882

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The district council's garden waste recycling services will see a waste truck in the Lower Street Car Park on **Sunday 8th December**. The service resumes in Spring 2025.



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. The latest de-fib to be added to the local network can be found at the Stansted Social Club on Lower Street.

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BRAIN TRAINING

The Benefits of Side Sleeping

Sorting out a bed that suits you is fraught. Trundle off to a shop and lie on a few beds feeling like a total numpty. Hope you have made the right choice, and then there is the question of pillows. I have many, most are failures. So here we are at bedtime; are we side, back or front sleepers? Much research goes into sleep and the boffins in this field are coming to the conclusion that the main reason we sleep is to rid the brain of accumulated rubbish called neurotoxins. These are removed through the internal jugular veins, and most of this clearance happens in deep sleep. When we are upright, the internal jugular veins collapse and only open when we lie down; this is good news for the front and back sleepers.



However, these veins open even more when we lie on our side. For most people the vein on the right is bigger, so we get the most benefit when we sleep on our right side. However, if we suffer acid reflux, then it is best to start the night sleeping on the left side since in that position the oesophagus is above the stomach, making for a more comfortable start to the night. If you are a side sleeper, it is also recommended to put a pillow – come to me, I have plenty of spares – between your knees to help keep the pelvis and spine stable.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07082 872919



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club had a great Halloween disco with everyone going to town on their costumes. We also tried chair yoga for the first time which all the members and volunteers really enjoyed. Our next outing is a trip to the bowling alley in Bishop's Stortford and then we are already looking forward to our early January trip to the panto in Cambridge (oh yes, we are!). Everyone is welcome to join us for our carol concert on **Thursday 12th December** at 7.30pm in St John's Church for carols, mince pies and a raffle. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2025.

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



RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

The special guest speaker at our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday 10th December** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA will be Ben Andrew, the manager of RSPB images, the commercial picture library of the organisation. He is also an outstanding and award-winning photographer whose work has appeared in many wildlife and bird publications. This will be followed by a visit on **Sunday 15th December** to the Thameside Nature Discovery Park, Mucking Wharf Road, Stanford-Le-Hope SS17 0RN. Meet at the park at 10.00am. This is a former landfill site which is now a tremendous habitat for coastal and wetland wildlife and at this time of year hosts significant numbers of bird species. One of our ever-popular mid-week walks concludes the events for this year. We are meeting on **Wednesday 18th December** at 10.00am in Albury Village Hall, The Bourne, Albury SG11 2JD. Following our walk, we will retire to the pub for a festive lunch. This walk has to be booked in advance using the contact details below.



The new year programme begins with a midweek walk starting from Bishop's Stortford Tesco on Tuesday 7th January at 10.00am. A five mile route has been chosen, as it is local and includes tracks and quiet lanes. For our monthly meeting on Tuesday 14th January at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, we welcome Howard Vaughan, aka The Blue-Eyed Birder. Howard spent many years at RSPB Rainham Marshes and has led many birding holidays both at home and abroad. He will be telling us about spring and summer on the Kentish Dow. To conclude the month we plan to visit RSPB Rainham Marshes, Purfleet RM19 1SZ on Sunday 26th January at 10.00am. This is an outstanding reserve with an innovative visitor centre including a shop and café; a great place to see wildlife with its complex of wet grassland ditches, grassland and scrub.

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PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

If you would like to get out and meet people, The Place on the Hill offers a warm, safe and friendly environment for adults. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** during December and January except Christmas Day and New Year's Day and everyone is welcome. Join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. We also 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. There is limited parking behind the church. 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

PARACHUTE JUMP FOR CHARITY

www.homeinstead.co.uk

Recently I had the privilege of participating in a fundraising parachute jump event in support of The New Apton Centre, Bishop's Stortford. The event was organized by my employer, *Home Instead East Herts*, and was not just about challenging myself, but also about contributing to the community and helping a great cause. The moment I jumped out of the plane, my heart raced, but in that instant of free fall, all my nervousness transformed into exhilaration and joy.



What made this experience even more rewarding was that it was not just a personal adventure, it was a reflection of teamwork and community care. My fellow workers and I raised a significant amount of money to support the various charitable efforts of Home Instead. Seeing everyone come together for this shared goal filled me with immense pride. I am very grateful to everyone who supported us, as well as to my colleagues who participated. We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future, where we can continue to support such initiatives so that together, we can contribute more love and warmth to our community!

Home Instead's charity arm gives small grants to community groups, clubs and registered charities. To apply visit <https://www.homeinstead.co.uk/charities/how-we-do-it/apply-for-a-grant>. For more information call 721443 or email: info.eastherts@homeinstead.co.uk.

Jane Chin



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI

At our October meeting Sharon Gould told us about her very chequered career choices which led up to a final life-changing event. She had roughly 21 different jobs. She had lost a lot of schooling due to ill health and was told that she was basically on the scrap heap. Her jobs included waitressing, butcher's assistant, bank clerk, rent collector (which she loved), market trader in Petticoat Lane, potato picker and Avon rep. She illustrated these jobs with a variety of props. In 1990 she took up hairdressing which led to a career which lasted until her retirement. She became involved with Realistic Opportunities for Supported Employment (ROSE) which places people with disabilities and special needs into paid employment. This furthered her own education at Greenwich College where she obtained a teaching qualification in 1992. Sharon's talk was highly entertaining and showed how, with a bit of help and determination, anything is possible.



The photo above shows one of our founder members, Margaret Chastney, celebrating her 90th birthday with Marion Pretty (also a founder member) and Judy Colliver. Many happy returns from all your friends at the WI.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 12th December** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when we will welcome *The Silver Darlings*. The competition is a seaside memory. The first meeting of 2025 is on **Thursday 9th January** (same time and place) when Karen O'Dinga is going to show us all about *Fabric Flowers* followed by a workshop. The competition is something beginning with J. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Four 2 Tom Hanks 3 Ebenezer
- 4 Dasher, Dancer and Donner 5 Germany
- 6 Home Alone 7 Three hundred and sixty four
- 8 Feliz Navidad 9 *White Christmas* by Bing Crosby
- 10 Casper, Melchior and Balthasar 11 Brandy
- 12 A button nose and a corncob pipe 13 Twelve
- 14 Angel Gabriel

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

This December we will be celebrating the festive season with a Christmas lunch at Bury Lodge and by hosting the inaugural meeting following our move to St Theresa's Parish Centre with a Christmas Tea Party.

We are then set to launch the new year with two exciting events in January. In 2025, the UK, along with the rest of Europe, will commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on 8th May. Throughout the year, this significant event will be marked by various activities within the u3a, the first of which is our monthly meeting on **Thursday 16th January**, featuring a gripping personal story from WWII.

The presentation will focus on one of the most daring RAF missions, involving low-level bombing with pinpoint accuracy. Ramrod 564 (The Amiens Prison Raid) was launched from RAF Hunsdon, Hertfordshire in February 1944, and was crucial in the lead-up to D-Day.

Guy Thomas, Denis Sharp and I will recount the story of the raid, featuring a first-hand account from the navigator of the second Mosquito to drop its bombs, breaching the outer wall.



For those who attended Mike Howgate's Saturday Seminar in May, where he challenged the theory that birds evolved from dinosaurs, the upcoming seminar on **Saturday 18th January** offers the perfect follow-up. Professor David Norman from Cambridge University will present the opposing evidence, aiming to prove that birds did indeed evolve from dinosaurs. Whether you joined the previous seminar or not, this promises to be a fascinating session from one of Cambridge's leading paleobiologists.

Visitors and new members are always welcome. For more information about our events and activities, visit our website or call 07874 385541. As our u3a continues to grow, these events reflect our commitment to lifelong learning and a vibrant community spirit.

Susan Sedgebeer
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The festive period always has competitive football matches for all our teams and this includes our big league Derby Fixture against Saffron Walden FC. This year this will be played at their ground on **Saturday 28th December** at 3.00pm. Both clubs are expecting large support on the day so the advice is to get into the ground as early as possible, enjoy the refreshment facilities and cheer us on to what we hope will kick start us on in the second half of our league campaign. We have recently seen changes to our first team squad; players who we hoped were loyal to the Club have moved on, some for glory and some for money. This is disappointing for supporters, as some of these were the fans' favourites. The majority of new players live locally and want to grasp this opportunity to play Step Five football, so our team of coaches will be working hard to develop both their technical skills and fitness over the coming months.

Our Under 18s are showing what a good side they are becoming; so much so that they are already attracting players to bolster their squad. It should be interesting to see how much more improvement they will make in the new year. Remember that we now show live football in our Clubhouse on first team matchdays with the Premier League on TNT Sports. Finally on behalf of the Club committee, team management and players we wish all our supporters and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fixtures at Hargrave Park in December and January

All are League Fixtures with a 3.00pm kick off.

14 th December	Athletic Newham
4 th January	West Essex
11 th January	Stanway Rovers



Tom Williams
Tel: 07921 403842

STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

Winter months are very busy at cricket clubs, trying to get organised for the following season and our Club is no exception. We are trying to recruit new players for our senior teams. A couple of our 1st XI have moved away from the area and some are taking up different sports, so we are actively looking for new blood. If you fancy playing in the Herts and Essex Border League Premier Division please get in touch. We have a beautiful ground and you will receive a warm welcome, and lovely cricket tea on matchdays. We are also updating our social media offering. When I say we, not me!

Our main Club sponsors are already in place for next season: Russell Property is our main sponsor and Nockolds for our junior section. We are also looking for advertisers for our fixture card. If you have any questions please contact me. Have a great Christmas and we wish you all a happy and healthy new year.



David Brown
Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

We wish Link readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Your new year's resolutions will probably include eating less and perhaps joining a gym. Instead you could join the Club, make new friends and exercise on the bowls green; better than all that hard work in the gym and much more enjoyable. We have finally managed to put four tonnes of top-quality soil onto the playing surface; many thanks to the members who helped with this.

We are also planning a carpet bowls league and darts league plus a number of events such as quiz nights during the close season. Look out for details in The Link, on the village notice boards and on the fence outside the Clubhouse in Recreation Ground. All are welcome and we are always pleased to see new potential players come along to the Club. You will receive a hearty welcome and be able to see what we do, try it for yourself and get involved with the Club both on and off the green. If you fancy being part of a friendly club which offers a subsidised bar, lots of banter and other activities for you to get involved in, then come along on a Friday evening from 7.00pm and one of the players will show you around. Alternatively drop me an email and I will help answer your questions and get you started, or you could look on our website for further information. We are also on Facebook: Stansted Bowling Club.

Peter Beattie
Hon Secretary

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com



STANSTED NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Darker Nights and Unexpected Services

As the nights grow longer, it is a good time to remind everyone to be extra vigilant. With darker evenings, we often see a rise in opportunistic crime. Please remember to lock up vehicles, out-buildings and sheds, keeping valuables out of sight and securely stored. Even a quick visit inside can be enough time for someone to take advantage, so it is a good idea to double-check locks and secure everything important.

We have had recent reports of young men knocking on doors around the area, offering jet-washing services for patios and paving. While they initially quote a low price, some residents have experienced unexpected requests for far higher payments after the work is done. Through intimidation, some residents have been forced to part with their cash. These individuals appear to be focusing on estates, and they sometimes target our more vulnerable neighbours which is very sad. Please be cautious, and encourage friends, family, and neighbours to do the same. If you notice any suspicious behaviour, or if you or someone you know feels pressured or uncomfortable, please do not hesitate to contact the police on the non-emergency number 101. Let us all work together to keep our village safe and look out for one another. Stay safe, Stansted!

Linzi
Co-ordinator



www.support4sight.org.uk

30 Hour Bikeathon

This year is the 30th Anniversary of Support 4 Sight, an Essex charity supporting blind and partially sighted people, their families and carers. To mark this milestone, we have been running our *Quirky 30 Challenge*; a series of sponsored events around the theme of 30, celebrating our community's commitment to raising funds in a variety of quirky ways.

Events have ranged from wearing 30 Christmas outfits throughout June, visiting 30 Wren churches, cycling 300 combined miles in *Ride London Essex* and climbing the 3000 ft of Scafell Pike.



Seymour our mascot, Santa and Quirky Turkey

To mark the culmination of the *Quirky 30 Challenge* we shall be holding an ambitious 30 hour *Light in the Dark Bikeathon* from **Friday 6th December 10.00am until Saturday 7th December 4.00pm**, cycling on a static bike to create enough energy to keep a light bulb lit for a full 30 hours. The event will be held in our office at 17 Cottage Place, Chelmsford CM1 1NL. Please join us to keep that light shining brightly.

We welcome individuals, families, and businesses to support this challenge in whichever way you can, for however long you can; a stint on the bike, morale support, follow us live on Facebook and donate via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/page/support-4-sight. For more information and to pledge your support please contact Sue on 01245 933572.



Elizabeth Sandwell
Outreach Coordinator



www.letstalkstansted.org

We held another successful Wellbeing Festival in October at St John's Church and Hall. There was a lovely mixture of charities, local organisations and stalls selling gifts, plus the Coco Fleur van selling coffees, teas and cakes. We had several newcomers this year, in addition to our regular supporters. Our annual festival is an opportunity for people to meet and talk to representatives from our village organisations, sign up for groups and make local contacts, as well as purchase some early Christmas presents.

November is Men's Mental Health Awareness Month, often referred to as Movember. Statistics show that men are less likely to access mental health services than women, yet they are more likely to suffer from stress and depression. We support men of all ages through social groups and activities that raise awareness about men's health issues, encourage conversations and break down the stigma associated with mental illness. Mental health is a vital component of overall wellbeing. We run the Veg Shed, an allotment group, our Muddy Walkers mixed walking group, and a brand-new Talk Club for those who wish to share their worries in confidence. We also support the Unfit Kickabout football group that meets every Sunday on the Rec. All these groups are designed as safe spaces where men can get together, make new friends and support each other, under the supervision of trained Mental Health First Aiders.



As we embrace the festivities of Christmas and New Year, let us remember that mental health matters for all. Help spread the message that it is okay not to be okay, and it is more than okay to seek help. Find out more on our website, or email: info@letstalkstansted.org. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



Dina McDonald



We are very pleased to report that four groups from the village have been rewarded with *It's Your Neighbourhood Awards* from the Royal Horticultural Society. Each entry is judged on three criteria: Community Participation, Environmental Responsibility and Gardening Achievement. Parish Chairman Maureen Caton presented certificates and £15 garden centre vouchers to St Mary's School, Touchpoint, and Mountfitchet House Care Home, pictured below.



Human Roots were graded as outstanding. We tried to book Charlie Dimmock and Alan Titchmarsh for their presentation but unfortunately our modest budget did not cover their appearance fee, so they had to make do with me, as Stansted in Bloom coordinator, to present them with their certificate!

Trevor Lloyd

Tel: 07739 428352

Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draw:

£100	No 176	Margaret Hill
£ 50	No 142	Jacqueline Corbishley
£ 25	No 54	Matt Cope

The next two draws will take place after the 9.30am service on Sundays **29th December** and **26th January**. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to 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

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Emma Croutcher Email: croutcher@gmail.com	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	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 is Well Read	Diana Griffin Tel: 813056 Email: stanstediswell read@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Stansted Tennis Club	Debbie Lane Tel: 07870 971983 Email: debbieglane@gmail.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	U3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell		
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242 or 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		
Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		

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 by emailing editor@stanstedlink.org.uk.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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