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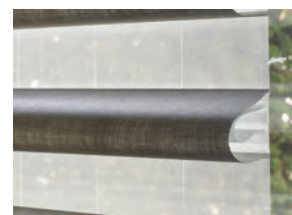
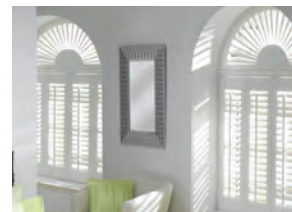
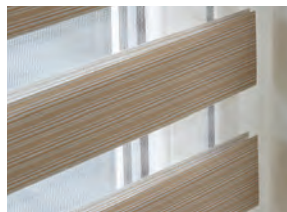
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Front cover
Church Road
by Carole Gray
Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine
The Link
www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please email editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on **9th Nov.** 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.

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EDITORIAL



During the short and at times dull days of November, it is good to have a summer picture to cheer us up. Our front cover photo was taken by Carole Gray back in May. She is clever to have framed the warm soft green field with young leaves; there are so many different shades of green in that picture. Thank you so much to Carole, who features again on page 19 in a very amusing way. November is always sombre and reflective on Remembrance Sunday; for important information regarding the village's commemoration on that day, which is on 10th November this year, please see page 21 in the Stansted Network section.

I am sad to report that the informative and excellent series of gardening tips, *In the Garden*, is coming to an end this month; see page 13 for the final article. Susan Sedgebeer and her u3a team have produced some truly first-class material for gardeners, to help readers plan their work in the garden throughout the year. Thank you very much for all the trouble you have gone to; I am sure the tips are appreciated by many a Stansted resident. Your articles have seriously enhanced this magazine; so well written, with very clear instructions and always a lovely photo to accompany the text. If anyone else would like to take over writing about this much-loved topic, please do let us know. The Link team is so appreciative of those of you who write material for us, such as Tricia Bromley and her quizzes, the latest of which can be found on page 11. We are also grateful to all of our advertisers. Without you and our writers, there would be no Link. All the best to you from all of us.

Ed



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

On **Sunday 24th November** at 3.00pm in St John's Church, we will be welcoming baritone Johannes Moore and pianist Ilan Kurtser for an international recital of songs, melodies and Lieder. Their programme includes: Ravel *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée*; Finzi *Air and Earth and Rain*; Vaughan Williams *Songs of Travel*; Brahms *Four Serious Songs* and four favourite Lieder by Schubert, the master of the form, *Der Musensohn*, *Ständchen*, *Ganymed* and *Wanderers Nachtlied*.



Johannes and Ilan

Johannes' singing career began as a chorister at Hereford Cathedral before studying at the Royal Academy of Music where he gained a first-class honours degree and Master of Arts. His recital partner Ilan is currently a Fellow at the Academy, where he teaches and coaches both singers and pianists, and has won all three of the accompaniment prizes. Tickets: adults £15, concessions £12, under 21s free, available on the door. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear two of the younger generation's rising stars right here in Stansted.

Richard Allaway
Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

Ian Keable, a Gold Star member of the Magic Circle, will be the guest speaker at our general meeting on **Thursday 21st November** at 2.00pm in St John's Hall. His presentation, *The Unparalleled Necromancer*, will focus on Charles Dickens' lesser-known role as a performing conjuror. Between writing *A Christmas Carol* and *David Copperfield*, Dickens performed magic for seven years, describing himself as a necromancer. Ian will not only reveal Dickens' tricks but also perform them live, offering insight into Dickens' talent for magic and how it influenced his literary works. In other news, following a consultation with members, the proposal to move the monthly meetings from St John's Hall to St Theresa's Parish Centre has been approved. The move will be effective from December, with the Christmas Tea Party scheduled to be the first event in the new venue on **Thursday 5th December** at 2.00pm.

In late September, several u3a members travelled to the Suffolk coast for a day out in Southwold. Upon arrival, groups dispersed to explore the seaside town. Some headed to the pier arcade, while others took a walk along the promenade to the River Blyth. After a satisfying lunch of fish pies at the Harbour Inn, they strolled back through the marshes, spotting kestrels in flight. The trip was a success, and more outings are planned for next year. Ten members of the Garden Group recently revisited the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens. Their first visit two years ago in summer had sparked curiosity about how the gardens would look in autumn. Following a peaceful lunch, they explored the grounds, discussing the benefits of forest bathing before seeking shelter from storm clouds in the glass-houses. The visit offered a refreshing contrast to their summer trip, and the group looks forward to future return visits.

Susan Sedgebeer
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

STANSTED EVENING WI



Our September speaker, Dorothy O'Grady, demonstrated the quickest and easiest way to wrap a gift in a box with just the right amount of paper and decorate it using the offcuts to make bows and fans. She also used ribbon and string on boxes using double sided sellotape. Her advice was not to buy wrapping paper (most of which is not recyclable) but use materials close to hand eg magazine pages, newspaper, brown paper, cloths, maps, calendars and even fancy tea towels or scarves, thereby giving the recipient an extra present. The wrappings were amazing and so individual. Afterwards we were all given paper and ribbons to create our own embellishments which was great fun!



Our next meeting is on **Thursday 14th November** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. Our speakers are Rev'd Nicholas Henderson speaking about *What If* and a representative from Safer Places. The competition is *Something Gold*. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the September draw:

£100	No 238	Alan Helbert
£ 50	No 164	Peter Jones
£ 25	No 190	Barbara Bryant

The draw for November will be held on **24th November** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. 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



www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 12th November** at 10.00am in South Mill Arts, starting with our AGM followed at 10.40am by our lecture. Our speaker will be Jo Banham on *A Decorative Art: History of Wallpapers*. The history of wallpaper is a long and fascinating subject dating from the 16th century; it encompasses a huge range of beautiful patterns. These were created by anonymous hands and by some of the best-known designers of the 19th and 20th centuries, including Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement. It also includes a discussion of the ways in which wallpapers were used in grand and more ordinary homes and hopes to justify the claim that wallpapers were truly *Decorative Art*. Come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed.

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

Michael Fitch
Tel: 07885 484274
Email: mickfitch@btconnect.com

NEWPORT FLOWER CLUB

Friendship, Fun and Flowers

Our Club meeting on 18th September was a delightful evening with a demonstration by Barbara Collins; her *Shades of Autumn* arrangements were amazing. The photo below was one of the arrangements and Barbara kindly gave her permission for us to use it.



Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 20th November** when our demonstrator will be Lorraine Gagen. Her title is *Christmas*; we are sure it will be a fun evening. This will be our last evening of the year with wine and mince pies to set the scene for the demonstration. The arrangements will be raffled at the end of the evening. Please do come along and bring a friend with you. We resume on 19th February with a demonstration. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except January, August, and December) at 7.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

Patricia Sanz



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

We welcomed Mark Ratcliff to our October meeting and he talked to us about *POW Camp 116 Hatfield Heath*. After initial allied victories starting in North Africa, Italian and German prisoners needed to be kept somewhere. During this period there were between 450 and 1026 Prisoner of War (POW) camps. At the peak there were over 400,000 POWs.

Camp 116 was commissioned in 1943 and grew from the initial 500 prisoners until the end of the war when the number was nearing 1000. Most were involved in agriculture and building work. Camp life was rather open. Mark described a football match between the camp and the local Hatfield Heath FC in 1946. The camp inmates won 11-0. After the war, the prisoners were held there until they could be repatriated back home. There was an escape of one inmate, but he was recaptured nearby at Harlow Station. Perhaps he, like others, were frustrated at the delay in going home. Eventually the camp was closed but a few of the former POWs had formed local attachments and never left. The camp was taken over as housing for local workers and builders, but eventually fell into disrepair. There are current plans for the future of the site, but this is still to be finalised. This was a fascinating insight into an interesting local piece of wartime history.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 7th November** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when Daniel Firth tells us of the story about *Grange Paddocks Excavations*.

Roger Barrett

Tel: 814216

Email: rmbartlett54@gmail.com



Stansted Business Forum
SUPPORTING LOCAL STANSTED BUSINESSES

www.stanstedbusinessforum.com

At our last meeting, Maureen Caton, Chair of the Parish Council, gave an update on the importance of maintaining the links between our Forum and the Economic Development Group. This means looking at problems that may arise such as parking, as well as providing the support needed for day-to-day issues that the Parish Council can help with.

We have links with the group organising the fireworks extravaganza at Forest Hall School's playing fields on **Saturday 9th November**. Other supporters of the event include Murdochs Estate Agents, the Parish Council and Tenacity Business Solutions. Please come along and enjoy the bonfire. Gates open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. For ticketing information, please see page 20 of this publication, in the Stansted Network section. We hope to see you there.



Iris Evans

Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com

STANSTED HELPLINE



Our appeal in last month's Link Magazine for new volunteers prompted contact from three people to join our team of drivers and we are extremely grateful to them for getting in touch. If there is anyone else who can spare a little time to support the continuation of our service then please get in touch.

Helpline Tel: **07704 553727 9.00am-4.00pm weekdays** (excluding Bank Holidays) or Email: suethrush@hotmail.com

Anne Wilkinson

NATURAL BEEKEEPING

My Honeybees

It was a slow start to the year, we did not have much of a summer and there was an early start to the cold season. In spite of everything, all my bees have been doing exceptionally well. There has been no varroa (a little parasite) or other diseases. There have been few hornets or wasps; both these bugs predate on honeybees. We do seem to have been overrun with slugs this year. Strangely enough, they have even been trying to get into some of the hives. So all is good with the established hives and all the new colonies. So I am really very optimistic for a great winter regardless of how cold it might get, or how long it will go into next year, as the drones are all gone and the honey levels are growing very well for winter.



Beehive Evolution

People used skeps in Europe for a very long time but the Victorians wanted to make beekeeping more productive and less labour intensive. Here they were spectacularly successful. They came up with the framed boxed beehive that we know today. Things have not changed for well over a century! However it did not happen overnight. To understand why framed box beehives work so well at producing honey we need to look at some of the things beekeepers noticed; how they then used these observations to the farmers' advantage but not always to the bees' advantage. One of the biggest people to expedite what was then modern beekeeping was the Queen's Consort, Prince Albert, who was a supporter of all things new. Until next time ...

Kevin Hancock

Email: thebigfly@gmail.com



Christmas Fayre

10 am - 3 pm Fri 1st Nov
B S Rugby Club

*Wide range of Artisan Stalls
Teas, Cakes, Raffle and more ..
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All welcome ~ Free Parking
Entry Free ~ Proceeds to St Clare



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STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 5th Nov

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

*Little Fires Everywhere
by Celeste Ng*

Exploring the complexity of
motherhood together with the
consequences of keeping secrets

All Welcome Tel 813056

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

1 Fri - 3 Sun	Halloween Special
1 Fri	St Clare Christmas Fayre
4 Mon	Red Cross Gift Fair
5 Tue	Stansted is Well Read
7 Thu	Local History Society
9 Sat	Link copy due in today
	Autumn Craft Fair
	Village Fireworks
10 & 24 Sun	Green Waste Skip
12 Tue	The Arts Society B S RSPB
14 Thu	W I
16 Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market
20 Wed	Ugley W I
	Newport Flower Club
21 Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting
24 Sun	Grove Cottage Festive Fun Run
	Music@stansted
26 Tue	Ugley Hall Coffee Morning
30 Sat	Social Club Festive Market
	Elsenham Farmers' Market
	St John's Christmas Quiz

Daisy May's 10 am - 5 pm
Rugby Club, B S 10 am - 3 pm
Fanhams Hall, Ware 10 am - 3 pm
Dog and Duck 8 pm
Touchpoint 7.30 pm
before noon
St James Barnabas Centre, B S 11 am
Forest Hall School from 6.30 pm
Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am
Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
Touchpoint 7.30 pm
Ugley Village Hall 10 am
Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
Ugley Village Hall 7 pm
St John's Hall 2 pm
Sworders' Field, BS 11 am
St John's Church 3 pm
Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
Social Club 11 am - 3 pm
Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
St John's Hall 7 for 7.30 pm

St James' Church, Thorley

11 am - 3.30 pm

Sat 9th Nov

Autumn Craft Fair

**Plants, Artwork, Jams, Pottery
Jigsaws, Fairtrade Products**

All welcome ~ Refreshments
Entry Free ~ Proceeds to church



Village Firework Display

7.30 pm Sat 9th Nov

Gates open at 6.30 pm

Forest Hall School Playing Fields

Plus Food, Drink and Music

Advance Tickets from Eventbrite:
Family of four £20, Over 16 £8,
Ages 5 -15 £4, Under 5 free

On the gate cash only: £25, £10, £5

To advertise your event in the combined December/January issue
Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk **by 9th November**

Ugley Village Hall

www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

COFFEE MORNING

10 am - noon Tue 26th Nov

Coffee • Tea • Cakes

Bring and Buy • Raffle

*Come and have a relaxing morning
before the Christmas Rush*

Free Parking ~ All Welcome



Christmas Quiz

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 30th Nov

St John's Hall

Tickets £15 incl ploughman's and
a glass of mulled wine

From Katy Tel: 07834 235011

Bring your own additional drink and glasses

*Come as a team of eight or on
your own and join others*



Green Waste Skip Dates

**Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm**

**10th & 24th Nov
8th Dec**



3 pm Sun 24th Nov

St John's Church

Johannes Moore Baritone

Ilan Kurtser Piano

*Music by Ravel, Finzi, Brahms
and Schubert*

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



FESTIVE FAMILY FUN RUN

11 am Sun 24th Nov

Start and finish at Sworders
Field, Bishop's Stortford

5K or 10 K routes

Adults £14, 12 and under £7

Includes reindeer antlers

Call 651908 or visit

www.mencapgrovecottage.org



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon

Sat 16th Nov

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

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Refreshments and Free Parking

For info and future dates tel 814052

GLADYS STRIKES AGAIN

Trudging up to the corner cottage Joe's relieved it's his last delivery of the day. His first day back has been hard, with an abnormally large quantity of mail to deliver.

As Joe paused at the front door to pull the remaining letters from his mailbag, it swung open. Looking up he's confronted by a pair of deep blue glittering eyes set in a face framed by a thick cloud of bright blonde hair. The un-smiling young woman stretched out her hand.

'About time,' she said angrily snatching at the letters. 'The postal service here is a disgrace. We've had nothing for over 10 days.' Joe took a step back from his accuser totally confused. He didn't know who this avenging angel was; what she was doing in Corner Cottage and what on earth did she mean about having had no deliveries for so long. While he stood wondering what had happened to Gladys, wonderful baker of his favourite ginger cake, he heard a familiar voice.

'Who's that you're talking to Scarlett?'

'It's the postman. At last,' the woman replied as she tried to shut the door. Joe's size 11 foot prevented it from closing.

'It's me Gladys. Are you OK?' he shouted.

'Joe? You're back. Thank goodness for that. Come in. I'm in the front room.' Grinning at stony faced Scarlett, Joe edged into the hall. His smile disappeared when he saw Gladys sitting with her right leg propped up on a stool and encased in a plaster cast.



'Whatever have you been up to?' He was shocked at how frail she had become in the month he'd been away from Broad End. Gladys waved her hand dismissively. 'Just a silly trip coming down the stairs. I'm on the mend. Nothing to worry about. Put the kettle on Scarlett, I'm sure Joe could do with a brew.'

'You're not offering him a cup of tea when he's not been doing his job properly,' was the incredulous reply.

'Don't be so rude dear. It's not Joe's fault we've had no deliveries. Now hurry up there's a good girl.' As Scarlett flounced off Gladys called out, 'and we'll have biscuits too please.' Joe beamed at the old woman relieved to see a spot of colour returning to her paler than usual cheeks. 'You'll have to excuse my granddaughter. She's a teacher. Not used to taking orders, only giving them,' Gladys whispered.

While waiting for the tea Gladys filled Joe in on what had been happening with the post in Broad End during his absence. A temporary postie had turned up on his bike,

complaining that the village was much further away than he thought, saying he'd have to see about bringing the van. But after a week or so on his bike the young postie disappeared, never to be seen again.

'I reckon he stopped coming because he was too young to drive and too lazy to cycle,' Gladys said. Joe smiled at Gladys's interpretation of events. But it did explain today's heavy workload.

'I complained,' said Scarlett as she brought in the tea. 'But it made no difference. Sorry gran, no biscuits left.'

'And no cake either Joe. I haven't been allowed to do any baking,' Gladys said glancing at Scarlett with an accusing look. 'Would you mind going to the shops and getting some biscuits dear?' She gave her granddaughter a sweet smile.

'Well, I suppose we could do with a few bits to see us through until the Tesco delivery arrives,' Scarlett paused looking worried. 'Will you be alright on your own?'

'I won't be on my own, will I? Joe's here.' Shaking her head in exasperation Scarlett turned on her heel and left the room. Minutes later they heard the front door open and close. Gladys relaxed back into her chair with a sigh. 'I know she means well but she's very bossy. Tires me out.' Joe could understand. Living on his own he knew he would find it difficult to suddenly have to share his home with someone like Scarlett.

'It won't be for ever though, will it? Surely, once the plaster comes off your granddaughter will be able to go?'

'Yes I know. But I'm desperate for a bit of time on my own,' Gladys said looking very thoughtful and with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes. Alarm bells started to ring. Joe could tell that Gladys was cooking up some sort of plan. And plans sometimes included him. She took a sip of her tea and wriggled the toes peeping out from the plaster cast. He waited nervously.

'It's Scarlett's birthday tomorrow,' she said quite casually, concentrating on her cup. 'I don't suppose you'd take her out for the evening for me? It wouldn't be much fun for a young thing like her spending her birthday with her old gran.' Then she looked at Joe and smiled. 'Please,' she added.

Joe didn't know how to refuse without being rude about Gladys' granddaughter. 'I don't know Gladys. I don't think Scarlett even likes me. She might not want to go out with me. You're not trying to set me up with a date are you?' The young postman asked warily.

'Don't be silly Joe. I wouldn't dream of doing that,' Gladys said indignantly. 'It's a win, win all round. Scarlett would get out to celebrate her birthday properly, I'd have an evening to myself to catch up with all my soaps, and you would get a free night out because I'll pay for everything,' she beamed.

By the time Scarlett returned, it was all arranged, and Joe left with his mind in turmoil. Once more he'd been cajoled into doing something he'd rather not get involved in. Panicking about where to take Scarlett during his drive home, Joe suddenly had a light bulb moment. He could take Scarlett to the quiz night at the local pub. It would save them both possible embarrassments, particularly if they really didn't get on, and might mean his team not coming last for a change. Maybe Gladys was right; a win, win all round.

Yvonne Ayres



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

One of the best ways to enjoy our wonderful area is on foot, so our website has always included a selection of walks. They have generally been focused on footpaths but last winter's exceptional rain made many paths difficult. This prompted us to develop a new series of walking routes that do not use any footpaths, such as the lane in Little Hadham shown below. We hope our *Quiet Lane Walks* will appeal to anyone who does not like cleaning boots and perhaps to families, people with mobility problems or less-energetic cyclists.



Our website now has almost 40 *Quiet Lane Walks* in addition to over 100 established routes. You can find a route that suits you by either scanning the lists of walks or by going to a specific parish introduction to see which route numbers go there; the *Quiet Lane Walks* start with the number 3. We have put together suitable routes that visit 41 of our hundred parishes but we would welcome suggestions for more. Just email a simple route outline to us and we will put together a full route description.

The new routes range in distance from 1 mile to 12 miles and pass through typical Hundred Parishes territory: lovely villages and attractive countryside, often with an inviting café or pub. Route descriptions can be freely downloaded from our website and printed. The descriptions should ensure that nobody gets lost and they include snippets of information about places along the way.

If you do not have access to the internet but would like some walk suggestions, please write to The Hundred Parishes Society, 2 Greenfields, Stansted CM24 8AH. We will send you a list of available routes and then print some for you. There is no charge.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

KEEPING WARM AND WELL

www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

If you worry about paying bills and keeping warm, there is a team of friendly energy specialists at Uttlesford Citizens Advice who can help:

Winter Fuel Payment

Changes to eligibility for this payment highlights the importance of making sure you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to; we can help with this. If you have internet access you can check your eligibility for support using a benefit calculator:

<https://uttlesford.entitledto.co.uk/home/start>

Home improvement grants and handyman services

We can help homeowners in receipt of income-related benefits to carry out essential repairs and improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Fuel vouchers and emergency funds

Perhaps you cannot pay your energy and water bills. You may be struggling to buy food or clothes or you cannot afford travel costs while looking for work; if so there is other support available. Please contact us for more information.

We can also help with:

- Access to food banks and children's clothes banks
- Money and debt advice, including debts to utility providers (sometimes we can apply to trusts and foundations to help pay these off)
- Priority services register
- Energy efficient behaviour
- Home safety and fall prevention
- Community services, including transport and food delivery.

You do not have to be on benefits to access this support; just call or email us, or drop in to Stansted Library to use our simple video link. Advice is free and confidential.

Heating Oil


If you have been getting your heating oil from the same supplier for some time it is worth doing a price comparison on one of the price comparison websites such as www.oil-club.co.uk, www.boilerjuice.com or www.fueltool.co.uk or give us call if you need some help.

Joining your local heating oil club can help you save money. Make sure you ring round a few suppliers to compare prices before placing an order and do haggle! We are at Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB.

Jo Hancock
Office Administrator
Tel: 01799 618858

Email: warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk

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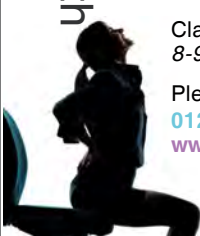

the osteopath

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This month sees the start of our new printing year

There are a few spaces still available including on the cover

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

We were very pleased to receive confirmation that the Stansted Airport Community Fund will be donating £5,000 towards the cost of repointing the brick work on the Mill. This, along with a very generous donation of £1,000 from The Link team, means we are just another £5,000 short of the £55,000 we need to fund the project.

As the Mill is a Scheduled Monument, any repairs need consent from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport through Historic England, which acts as the Ministry's agent in such matters. They made it a condition that before they granted permission for the repointing to start, we enabled a sample of the original mortar from the inner structure of the walls to be tested, at a cost of £375. We now have a detailed analysis of the mortar which our contractor is able to duplicate. We are very hopeful that the work can start imminently and the Mill will soon be swathed in scaffolding. It is a huge relief that, all being well, the work will be completed before we are hit by winter weather.



Repairs underway

This is a once-in-a-generation project which should ensure we get no further water penetration, and the basic structure of the Mill will be safe for a long time. The sails, however, have a shorter life span; we need to keep up our fundraising efforts so that they can be replaced when our millwright deems they have come to the end of their safe working life.

Our next fundraising event is *Santa at the Mill* on **Saturday 7th December**. There will be full details in the December issue of The Link but also look out for posts on our website, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/Stansted.Windmill and on the village notice boards.

Trevor Lloyd
Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk

The Link team are very happy to have been able to support the fundraising efforts, as described above. Ed

FOUND AT THE WINDMILL FETE

Could these be yours?

Every year we get boxes containing miscellaneous objects and ornaments of little value to sell at the Windmill fête. Our eagle-eyed antiques expert, Tony Wellings, tries to identify any items that might be a bit more valuable and makes sure these are marked up at a sensible market price. This year he spotted a pair of cufflinks that looked as if they might be something special; after consulting a professional valuer it turns out they are worth a significant amount of money. We have put the cufflinks aside and they are being kept safely. Tony is concerned that somebody has inadvertently donated the cufflinks without realising their value, so he wants to give that person the opportunity to reclaim them. If you think they may be yours, please get in touch with us and if you can give us a reasonable description of the cufflinks we will return them to you. If they are not reclaimed our fête profits will have a welcome boost.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 07739 428352

STANSTED LINK HELPING THE COMMUNITY

The Link is a Community Interest Company (CIC) and we aim to be non-profit making. In practice it is difficult to achieve an exact balance between our income and expenditure, as both can vary throughout the year. Most of our income is from advertisers, and we recognise that their needs can be fluid. We also receive a donation from the Parish Council, who are responsible for compiling their four pages each month. Our main expenditure is the cost of printing and distribution, both of which are subject to inflation. If we finish our year with a profit, it will be subject to corporation tax. As we have made a small profit in our last financial year, which ended on 30th September 2024, the directors have decided to make donations to two local charities. The charities we have chosen to each receive £1,000 are Stansted Windmill and Touchpoint.



Mike Dyer
Link Chairman
Tel: 814059

LINK ADVERTISING

Calling New Advertisers

We started our new printing year this month and still have a few spaces available for new advertisers

Various sizes available including one on the cover

Prices start from £255 for 10 issues

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or call Marion on 814059**



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.magnacartaacademy.org



www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

Our youngest pupils, Willow Class, have enjoyed their first few weeks of school and adapted well into their new routines. They have been practising daily *funky fingers* activities to strengthen the muscles in their fingers to prepare them for writing, and been practising letter formation. They have also started learning some Set 1 phonic sounds. The children have been discussing the differences and similarities between themselves and their families. We have enjoyed getting to know our youngest friends over the past few weeks and know they are going to achieve amazing things as they progress across the school.

Oak Class, our oldest pupils, had a trip to the Wild Forest Nuclear Race site in Ongar. All the children enjoyed challenging themselves over many different obstacles and got extremely muddy in the process! They all came away from the experience with positive comments. It was great to see the children step out of their comfort zones and show great teamwork and enthusiasm. Our Years 5 and 6 pupils also participated in a graffiti workshop recently wherein they jointly created a new mural for the playground. They all feel extremely proud to have been able to leave a lasting mark on the school.

We are currently in the process of selecting leadership groups across the school. Some of these include the prefects, digital leaders, librarians, sports ambassadors and PE rangers. These pupils will help all children to have a fantastic experience whilst at the school. Prospective Reception parent tours will be held on the 14th, 21st and 28th November. Please book your place on the tours through our school office. We look forward to meeting you then.

Jen Pearce
Headteacher
Tel: 703484

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk



We mark Black History Month during October every year in school and we kicked off our celebration with a whole school assembly on the importance of every voice being heard. We are happy to be joining in with this national initiative. As part of their PSHE, Hazel Class have been writing some very impressive leaflets about recycling and the importance of saving energy. Well done Hazel, you are helping us to ensure that as a school community we do all that we can to be environmentally friendly. It has been so good to have so many new prospective parents visiting the school. Please ring the school office if you would like to make an appointment; our next open days are on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th November at 9.15am. Happy half term!

Matthew Curzon
Head teacher
Tel: 812212

It has been a brilliant first half term. We are enormously proud of how well our pupils have settled into their new classes and have been tackling their first learning themes of the year with enthusiasm. Our Reception class successfully completed their staggered start to school and are carrying out activities based on their *All About Me* theme, whilst our Year 1 pupils are taking this a step further and exploring the wider world in their theme of *My World and Me*. Year 2 are studying Castles, including a much-anticipated visit to Mountfitchet Castle, whilst our Year 3 pupils are finding out about the Stone, Iron and Bronze Ages, with a range of lessons, including cave art and making Bronze Age bread. Year 4 are *Mapping the World*, Year 5 are studying what life was like for children in WWII in their topic of *The Blitz*, and Year 6 are exploring issues surrounding environmental diversity and sustainability in *Our Planet*.



As part of our ongoing approach to the promotion of leading active lives, our three youngest classes took part in a recent *Teddy Bear Run*. Organised by our local Sports Association, the children brought in their cuddly toys and joined in a range of exercises, followed by a session of running on our daily mile track. All the pupils and toys enjoyed it enormously.

We currently have several open days available for parents who are interested in applying for a reception place for September 2025, and the individual time slots on offer provide an opportunity to have a tour of the school from some of our year 6 pupils. Spaces are limited so please book on our school website as soon as possible if you are interested.

David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626



UGLEY VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

We are having another of our famous coffee mornings on **Tuesday 26th 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. There is plenty of free parking. Proceeds go towards the upkeep of Ugley Village Hall. We hope to see you there.



Susan Bone
Tel: 814052



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

This autumn term has been truly wonderful, and we are so proud of how the children have embraced their learning with enthusiasm and energy. From the youngest in Reception to our oldest in Year 6, everyone has been throwing themselves into each activity, eager to learn and grow. A standout event for Key Stage 2 (KS2) was our Stone Age Day, where the children delved into history, taking part in hands-on activities that brought this fascinating era to life. Meanwhile, our KS1 and Reception children had a fantastic time during the Teddy Bear Run, which was filled with excitement, teamwork, and lots of smiles. Another highlight has been our class assemblies, where the children have confidently shared their learning with the school community, demonstrating their creativity, hard work and growing confidence.

We are also pleased to announce that we will be holding two open days for parents considering our school for their children starting in Reception in September 2025. These will take place on **Thursday 7th November** 9.00am-10.30am and **Tuesday 19th November** 1.45pm-3.15pm. We invite you to come and see our beautiful church school, known for its broad and balanced curriculum, which includes Forest School and our Outdoor Play and Learning programme. We are proud of our nurturing culture rooted in Christian values, small year groups and an active wear uniform that promotes good mental health and physical well-being. We also offer a fantastic KidsOut morning and after-school club. No need to book; just come and have a look around and you will receive a warm welcome.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher

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 9.15am-11.30am** in the Free Church Hall, which is warm and comfortable and continues to be a popular meeting place. All ages are welcome, although it is particularly suitable for youngsters. Parents, children and all age visitors drop in; adults relax with a hot drink and chat, while the children enjoy plenty of space to run around and play with the toys and listen to Story Time at around 10.30am. Always popular are push-along walkers, story books, colouring, puzzles and a variety of animal toys and 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 with tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



Scouts

STANSTED SCOUTS

The Survival Skills badge took us to Priory Wood campsite where Scouts had to make shelters and sleep in them. Luckily it did not rain as most were not rainproof. Food was cooked over wood fires, and we had steamed fish (wrapped in wet newspaper), stuffed jacket potatoes, sausages, egg and toast and of course good old s'mores.



Spot the hidden Scout

We were not able to source any rabbits so if anyone knows a local supplier, we would be glad to have their details please. Fire lighting, compass making and water filters were also covered. By the end the Scouts were tired but at least they were dry! If anyone would like to join our adventures, please get in touch.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 812780

Email: stanstedscouts@hotmail.co.uk

? ? ? ? ? ? QUIZ ? ? ? ? ?

- 1 Scientist who developed the smallpox vaccine
- 2 Animal that outnumbers people by 6 to 1 in New Zealand
- 3 Year in which John Lennon was assassinated
- 4 Number of lines in a sonnet
- 5 Frankenstein's first name
- 6 English painter famous for painting horses
- 7 Ocean containing the Mariana Trench
- 8 Number between 9 and 11 on a standard dart board
- 9 Largest animal to have ever lived
- 10 Most popular pizza topping in the USA
- 11 Instrument played by Jazz legend Miles Davis
- 12 Britpop band fronted by the Gallagher brothers
- 13 First feature-length animated film to be released
- 14 Most consumed fruit in the world
- 15 City where Inspector Morse was set

Compiled by Tricia Bromley

Answers on page 30

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Chris **01279 817111** **info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk**



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Email: yvonne.estop@outlook.com



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For bookings or further information please contact Susan Bone

Tel: 01279 814052 Email: ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com



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IN THE GARDEN

November in our region brings shorter days and cooler temperatures making it a time to prepare the garden for winter while continuing to enjoy the remaining seasonal tasks. For flower beds, this is still a good time to plant spring flowering bulbs such as daffodils, tulips and crocuses. Ensure bulbs are planted in well-drained soil, around two to three times their depth to protect them from frost. It is also a good time to cut back perennials that have finished flowering. However, leaving some seed heads, like those of sedum or echinacea, can provide food for birds and add winter interest. Tender plants, such as dahlias and cannas, should be lifted and stored in a frost-free location, while more resilient plants may benefit from a protective mulch.



For vegetable growers, November is ideal for planting garlic and broad beans, which will establish over the winter. Hardy varieties of peas can also be sown now. This is also the time to harvest the last of your root vegetables such as parsnips, carrots and beetroots. Additionally, clearing away any dead plant material from the vegetable beds will help prevent pests and diseases from overwintering. If you have a greenhouse or cold frame, use it to protect young plants or sow winter salads like mizuna or lamb's lettuce, which thrive in cooler weather. Covering your garden soil with compost or mulch will enrich it, improve structure, and suppress weeds over winter. Lastly, remember to check stored fruits and vegetables regularly for signs of rot and take time to ensure garden tools are cleaned and stored for the season ahead.

u3a Garden Group
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 5th November** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street where we will be discussing last month's book choice *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng. The book explores the complexity of motherhood and the weight of our choices, together with the consequences of keeping secrets and the ways in which truth can disrupt or heal relationships. Following the rules cannot always avert disaster. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

if you are in need of company, want to get out of the house, or would just like somewhere warm to go, join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits in friendly company on **Wednesdays 10.00am-noon**. 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. Adults of all ages are welcome. 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

HUW JOHNSON CLUB

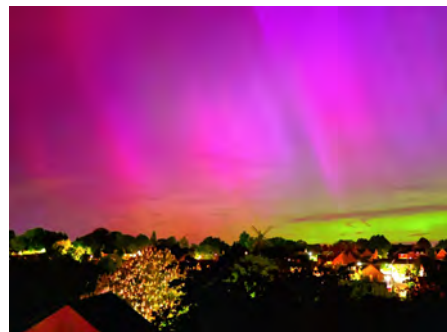


The Club restarted at the end of September with a pizza and bingo night which gave everyone the chance to catch up after the summer break. For our upcoming sessions we are looking forward to a seated yoga session, a Hallowe'en disco with everyone dressing in their spooky best, and our carol concert on Thursday 12th December. As always, anyone interested in attending or volunteering for the Club, please do get in touch.

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

CALENDARS OF STANSTED FOR CHARITY

Greetings to the lovely people of Stansted. My name is Dale Crowson and on many occasions my photographs have featured on the front page of your monthly Link magazine, including the one below in July of this year. I will soon be producing a Calendar for 2025 with an exciting selection of my Stansted photographs from over the years.



These will be available from 1st December from Paris Legore Flowers and Gifts in Lower Street and from Absolute Travel on Chapel Hill. You can also email me to order. All money raised is going directly to the Macmillan nurses. The perfect present at a selling price of only £10 per Calendar!

Dale Crowson
Email: crowsondale@gmail.com

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The glorious dead is a phrase that first came into prominence when it was chosen as the inscription on the Cenotaph in London in 1920. It is in many ways a puzzling expression. *Glory* connotes resplendence and great beauty; how can we square it with the ugliness of war? The same question might also be asked of Christ's cross. *In the cross of Christ I glory, towering over the wrecks of time*, runs the old hymn. What could possibly be glorious about the horror and degradation of crucifixion?

Well, *glory* always reveals or shows something. Glory takes the form of display, and draws its power from being witnessed. The glory of the cross is not the conventional glory of the world, but shining through Christ's agony is God's sacrificial, self-revealing love, made manifest for all the world to see. A similar, strange glory belongs to the dead whom we commemorate on Remembrance Sunday. Through the horror of war, the glorious ideals of sacrifice and service are made apparent to us. They are ideals which we uphold, and which involve us, at our acts of commemoration.

Remembrance Sunday takes place in the shadow of the cross; from a Christian perspective, it is a reduplication of Good Friday, only with Christ's death refracted through the sacrifice of servicemen and women, past and present. The ultimate glory of our dead is that they are witnesses to the crucified Christ, whose suffering brings life to the world, and gives us the victory.



Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather
St John's Church



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Our Mass times can be subject to change so please refer to our website/Newsletter for updated information, including weekday Masses. Confessions are at 5.15pm every Saturday before the Vigil Mass and by appointment.

Baptisms: By appointment



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

Contact Sue Moloney Tel: 07759 532225
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.



From St John's Registers

Funeral
22nd August Peter Dukes, age 72 - service at St Mary's, burial in parish cemetery



**ST JOHN'S
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Office hours: Monday, Wednesday,
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Email: stansted.church.office@gmail.com
Website: www.thefivechurches.org.uk

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

Associate 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

Together on Sunday

We are doing something new at St John's. For many years we have had a flourishing toddler group on Tuesdays and a faithful congregation on Sundays. Both groups are friendly, welcoming communities and each have their own way of worshipping. We want to bring them together for an hour on the first Sunday of each month, beginning on **3rd November** at 9.30am in St John's Church for an informal time of singing, hearing stories, and sharing the bread and wine of Holy Communion together. There will be crafts for children, toys for the little ones and refreshments to share at the end.

If you have children and would like to be part of a church but have worries about keeping them sitting still and quiet in a service, then come and try *Together on Sunday*. Children will be free to move around, and it is fine if they want to chat and play. There will be lots of movement, singing and even dancing; the grown-ups may even join in!

If you like the idea of belonging to an inter-generational community at the heart of our village but are not too sure about the religious stuff, then come and try this new church event. You are all welcome wherever you are on your journey of faith, just come with an open mind. We look forward to welcoming you. The next *Together on Sunday* is **1st December**.

Rev'd Helen Flack
Associate Priest
Tel: 01371 876145
Mobile: 07710 291377

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 November

3rd 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
10th 10.50am Remembrance Service at St John's
17th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
24th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch

Harvest Festival

We received an amazing number of gifts for Uttlesford Foodbank at our recent Harvest Festival, as you can see in the picture below.



We also invited financial contributions and were able to send £200 to the foodbank. A very big thank to everyone.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

There are only a few bookings left in the calendar for this champing season. Then the cleaning and packing away begins until next March. Part of my role as volunteer at St Mary's is to count footfall. From April until the end of September, 1,864 people have either signed in or attended events in church. The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) multiply that number by seven because not everyone signs in. That is how they calculate the footfall figures.

I have some very sad news. The ancient boiler which used to heat the church is no longer functioning, so unfortunately I am not able to provide heating. It is very unlikely that there will be any events over the winter months apart from the Stansted Scouts who are willing to wrap up warm for their Christingle service on **Saturday 7th December** at 3.30pm. The CCT are aware of the boiler situation and hopefully will advise us on alternative solutions. We will be asked to contribute to the cost, so any help with funding will be greatly appreciated.



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RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

Our monthly programme for November features two of the many notable reserves along the coast and estuaries of Essex: Wallasea Island and Wat Tyler Country Park. They are great places to visit and feature large numbers of birds and a wide range of species.

On **Thursday 7th November** leaving at 10.00am from St Mary the Virgin, Church Lane, Debden CB11 3LD we have our midweek, short and sociable birding walk. This is a circular anti-clockwise loop of around 4½ miles through fields and woodland around Debden.

For our meeting on **Tuesday 12th November** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA, we welcome Rachel Fancy, Site Manager for RSPB Wallasea Island. This reserve is newly-created from more than three million tonnes of earth excavated for the Crossrail scheme and features marshland, lagoons, ditches and sea. Rachel will be telling us about the history of the reserve, what it is like now (a great place to visit) and future developments.



The following week on **Wednesday 20th November** at 10.00am we plan to visit Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea SS16 4UH. With a huge diversity of habitats and species this is one of the most important wildlife sites in Essex. We start with a short private visit to the Essex Field Club Green Centre to find out about their work and collections.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



A very big Thank You to all those who supported the recent coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care. An amazing amount of over £700 was raised. Well done again to everyone!

Christine and Bill Stiles

Tel: 813172



SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.com

We were extremely proud to provide the entertainment for the annual Club Awards. It gives us an opportunity to showcase the wealth of talent that appears in the Club. There will be work starting to fix issues with the guttering, fascias etc which were highlighted by the excessive rain that we have had. Disruption will be kept to a minimum. These repairs are possible due to the membership fees and we are always grateful to our members for their continued support. Whilst it might be too early to mention the C word, we are having a festive market on **Saturday 30th November** 11.00am-3.00pm. It is just £5 if you want to host a stall so please email the Club if you are interested.

November's entertainment starts on **Saturday 2nd** with a Halloween party featuring *The Retros 80s* band. On **Sunday 3rd** we have a mighty *Suggs* tribute. Karaoke returns with Martin from *Cloud 9* on **Friday 8th**. On **Saturday 9th** we welcome another newcomer to the Club: a *Taylor Swift* tribute with dancers. Absolutely one not to be missed! *JDS Acoustic Band* are performing on the afternoon of **Sunday 10th**. On **Saturday 16th** we have the fabulous *Bonnet Band* making their debut at the Club followed by the ever-popular *Time Warps* on the afternoon of **Sunday 17th**. Another superb tribute making a welcome return is *Gary Barlow* on **Saturday 23rd**. On **Sunday 24th** we have *The Big Country Band*, and we round off the month with a *Cher* tribute on **Saturday 30th**. An amazing line up! A reminder that we have the meat raffle at 3.00pm on Sundays followed by the members' draw.



Andrew Sharpe

Tel: 812992

Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES CHURCH, THORLEY

Autumn Craft Fair

We will be holding our annual fair on **Saturday 9th November** from 11.00am-3.30pm in the St Barnabas Centre, Church Lane CM23 4BE. There will be a wide variety of stalls including plants, hand-knitted children's clothes, scarves, artwork, Christmas cards and gifts, pottery, glass, jams, books, jigsaw puzzles, and FairTrade produce. Why not come and get some early Christmas presents? Home-made soup and cheese lunches will be served from noon-2.00pm; cakes and hot and cold drinks will be available all day (cash only). Entry is free and all proceeds will go to the church.

Sandra Ayres

Tel: 814471



ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

The Bishop's Stortford Christmas Fayre in aid of St Clare is on **Friday 1st November** 10.00am-3.00pm at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. With a range of local artisan stalls, tea, cakes, raffles and so much more, you are sure to be well on your way to ticking all of the presents off your list. All are welcome. Do come and support this worthwhile cause.

Elaine Moore

Supporter

Tel: 07811 506242

Email: bgmefm@yahoo.co.uk



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NHS Flu and Covid Vaccinations at Peacock Pharmacy

Appointments are now available for free NHS Flu and Covid vaccinations at the pharmacy for those who are eligible. If you are not sure if you qualify, you can check by going to www.nhs.uk/vaccinations where you can also book your appointment. Alternatively you can call us on 816323. The pharmacy is next to the Doctors' surgery in Castle Maltings and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.00am-6.30pm, Tuesday 7.00am-6.30pm and Saturday 9.00am-1.00pm.

Sherjeet Thiara
Superintendent Pharmacist

Festive Family Fun Run

Join us for this annual event on **Sunday 24th November** at 11.00am starting and finishing from the Bandstand in Sworders Field, Bishop's Stortford. Get ready to dash, prance, and spread holiday cheer. Whether you are a seasoned runner, casual jogger, walker or little dasher, everyone is welcome to join us.



You have the choice of a 5K or 1K route; pick the one that suits your stride. All proceeds will benefit Grove Cottage members and your participation will really make a difference. Entry: adults (13 years +) £14, children (12 years and under) £7. Reindeer antlers are included in the price. For further details of the run, including how to register, please see the events section of our website.

Alison Cameron

Email: fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org

Tel: 651908

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS QUIZ

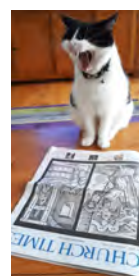
This year we have decided to hold a fundraising Christmas quiz instead of our usual Christmas market. This will be on **Saturday 30th November** 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the church hall. Tickets: £15 to include a ploughman's supper and a glass of mulled wine. Please bring your own drink if a glass of mulled wine is not enough. There will be a raffle; all prizes gratefully received. We are very fortunate to have secured the services of that well-known quizmaster, the Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather. Please contact Katy Dockerill on 07834 235011 or me for tickets. You can either reserve a table for up to eight per team or make up a group on one of our singles tables. Everyone will be very welcome. Please join us for a really fun pre-Christmas evening.



Kathy West
Tel: 07880 602717

CAPTION COMPETITION

Once more I have needed to stifle my giggles as I judged the entries for last month's caption competition. Many of you seem to have no compunction about burdening a poor cat with your unkind attitude towards the Church Times. Five out of the nine entries seem to imply that the august newspaper is boring. No doubt when it was first published in 1863 it did not regard cats as its target readership, but it must have become more inclusive since then. However, before the Editor gets out her red pen, here are the results of the caption competition.



In first place we have somebody who knows that flattery will get you everywhere:

- *I'd rather be reading The Link*
submitted by Carole Grey

The two runners up in no particular order are:

- *Just how much longer do I have to sit here looking as though I'm enjoying reading Church Times?!*
submitted by Ann Brett

and ...

- *Any vacancies for a 'church cat'? I am looking for a new challenge, and feel I would be an ideal candidate*
submitted by Nicola Robinson

As before, I was not allowed to know in advance who submitted the entries, so if any of my friends are named above do not blame me.



Mike Dyer
Chairman
Stansted Link

We are hoping that this will become a regular feature, so if you have a suitable photo, please send it to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk. Thanks in advance.

Ed

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

...with further details of this month's fireworks display, the village Remembrance Service, and the Parish Council's stance of three key community issues.

Fireworks Display 2024

Billed as a Fireworks Extravaganza, all the stops have been pulled out to ensure the village Guy Fawkes celebrations on Saturday, 9th November live up to the name. Experienced fireworks event company SelStar have been hired and they have set the display to music. Food vendors have been signed up and include among others, Trott & Whinny (burgers/fries/hotdogs), the Cork House (wines, beers, cocktails) Barista Boy coffee and Choccy Heaven. With the food, music, drinks and fireworks taken care of, all that is needed to ensure a brilliant fun-filled night at the playing fields of Forest Hall School is you! You can buy tickets on the gate for £25 for families of 4, £10 for over £16s, kids £5. Some tickets may also still be available at

[eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) for slightly less (search Stansted Mountfitchet Community Fireworks). Proceeds — once event costs are covered — go to the school as a thank you for agreeing to host the display and to local charities. See you there!

Fireworks Extravaganza
Saturday, 9th November
Forest Hall School
Playing Fields
Gates open 6.30pm,
display starts
at 7.30pm.
No vaping, no smoking,
no sparklers.



Crucial Community Issues

This autumn we have written on three issues affecting our community, now and in the future. In the interests of transparency, we provide a précis of our response to Essex County Council's report into HGV traffic in Stansted, along with a summary of our comments on the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan. We have also felt compelled to ask our local MP for their support to challenge the government's withdrawal of winter fuel payments for pensioners.

SMPC Position: Grove Hill

SMPC to Essex County Council

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council is challenging an Essex Highways 2024 report which claims that HGVs cannot be diverted away from Grove Hill. The Parish Council has asked to see the full report.

For in excess of 7 years Essex Highways has recognised the problem of HGVs in the lower part of Stansted Mountfitchet and notably the issue of Grove Hill. A way to resolve the problem was reached — to exclude HGVs (other than those serving the village) with Hall Road in Takeley being identified as the alternative route. Once legislation permitted, breaches by HGVs of the exclusion would be identified emotely and automatically penalised. Throughout this period ECC has informed us:

1. It has pursued a consistent policy to resolve the problem of Grove Hill.
2. That in 2023 Traffic Orders were being prepared, ready to be advertised and, at that point, objections would be received and evaluated.

SMPC believes, if this is not correct, then the Grove Hill residents and Parish Council have been misled.

About Turn: Essex Highways 2024 Report

In August a two-page summary of a report by Essex County Council on Grove Hill was circulated to the SMPC. It concluded: "It is unlikely that any scheme looking to enforce an HGV restriction in Grove Hill is going to be feasible.



The Parish Council feels that this is a clear indication that Essex Highways is renegeing on its previous promises."

Essex Council Reasoning

- The alternative route through Takeley is ruled out on the grounds that Takeley already has a higher share of HGV traffic
- Essex has not taken up powers to enforce moving traffic offences while the Department of Transport has stalled on moving traffic enforcement roll-out
- Other options to reduce the impact of HGVs are discounted
- Implementing proposed solutions are too costly

The summary report is unconvincing in explaining the rationale and evidence for its turnaround.

SMPC Response to Report

The Parish Council's position statement notes Parsonage Road (Takeley), unlike Grove Hill, is purpose built to take heavy traffic flows with strategic lay-bys and properties set back from the carriageway. The Parish Council also take issue with traffic flow comparisons in the Highway's report between the two roads. These figures clearly show Essex has turned a blind eye to the predicament of the residents of Grove Hill. The matter of costs is a "created concern" as none [in the report] are new and have never previously been highlighted for not pursuing the scheme to exclude HGVs from Grove Hill.

Minimum Measures

The Parish Council calls for Essex to commit to its long-standing policy to remove HGVs from the roads feeding the lower centre of Stansted. At a bare minimum:

1. Move back the top set of traffic lights on Grove Hill
2. Prevent red light jumping
3. Establish a 7.5T weight limit in both directions of Grove Hill
4. The footpath of Church Road must be widened.

Concluding Comments

The Essex Highways' report is a sham, without substance, and fails to acknowledge the suffering of the residents living on Grove Hill. The Parish Council does not accept the conclusions on the basis of the partial report.

▶ stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/documents/highways-grove-hill

SMPC Comments: Reg 19 Draft Local Plan

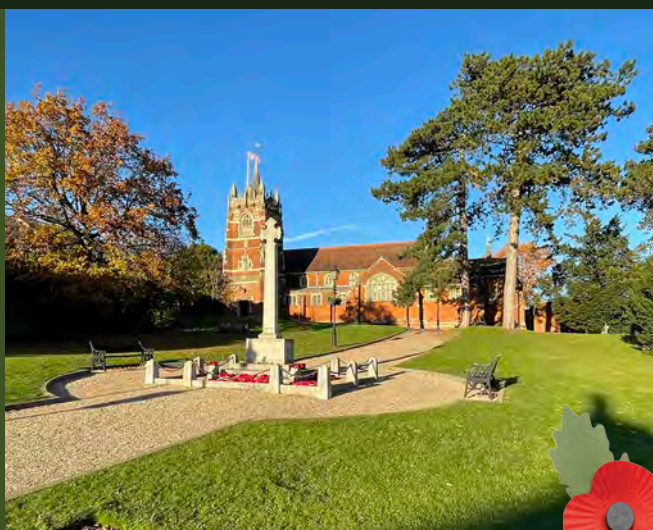
SMPC to Uttlesford District Council

1 Consultation has been absent or misleading. SMPC proposed the development of land east of High Lane should be replaced with a similar size development on Church Road, that was more sustainable and offered more community benefits. No response was received from the Local Plan Panel. The lead officer of which, in a meeting with us, said there would be no change to the land East of High Lane proposal. Consequently, the Church Road development was not pursued. But the Regulation 19 draft shows the dwellings at High Lane have been reduced from 140 to 55. Had this been raised in consultation then the outturn on the Church Road site might have been different, to the benefit of UDC and SMPC. The proposal to close High Lane as a through route was never made known. So there has been no consultation with SMPC or with Essex Highways. This is not acceptable. The volume of traffic along Cambridge Road (B1383) and using Chapel Hill will show a significant increase. This impact will increase the problems on Chapel Hill and add to the back up of traffic at the junction with, and along, Lower Street.

2 Stansted's inadequate road infrastructure is being ignored. The construction of new developments in Stansted Mountfitchet and Elsenham will increase traffic volumes using Grove Hill and Lower Street. Both roads are already under severe pressure. UDC's transport study highlights the issues with a prediction of gridlock within 10 years. What discussions have been held with Essex Highways?

3 Currently, there is no bus service which connects Walpole Meadows, nor the land East of High Lane to the services in Lower Street or Station Road. Without regular bus services, it cannot be said that these developments meet the requirement of sustainable public transport. In terms of Cambridge Road, this is served by an hourly bus. Unless frequency is increased, or a regular service by the 7/7a introduced, the use of buses is unlikely to increase.

This year's Remembrance Service is on **Sunday, 10th November**. You can gather in the **Memorial Gardens from 10.30am** or the Crafton Green car park, from where a parade will pass down Chapel Hill to the war memorial. Service personnel from Carver Barracks will lead the procession and the service will be taken by Rev'd Helen Flack. Refreshments will be served afterwards in St John's Church Hall. Please note, **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. Contact SMPC if you would like to join other community groups in laying a wreath at the service.



Remembrance Service 2024

Village bus services also need to service the train station to provide joined up public transport.

4 Pennington Lane is identified as part of the active travel route to Cambridge Road shops and services and Bentfield Primary School. SMPC feels strongly Pennington Lane should be closed to vehicles other than for access.

5 Two sites have been allocated on Walpole Meadows for community facilities – a 56-place early years and childcare facility and the second for unspecified community use. SMPC has two reservations. First, the land allocated appears to need significant work before it could be usable. Second, without a substantial financial commitment, it is unlikely that a community facility will happen. Taking into account the two Walpole Meadows developments, land east of High Lane, King Charles Drive and the High Lane developments already approved, there will be around 540 dwellings with no community facility.

6 The local plan should support the re-provision of a sustainable site for a small number of Almshouses.

► stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/document-category/local-plan/

Pensioner Poverty & Winter Fuel Payments

SMPC Chair to Kemi Badenoch MP

I am writing on behalf of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council to draw your attention to the pressing issue of pensioner poverty across Stansted, particularly in light of the recent changes to Winter Fuel Payments.

The government has announced Winter Fuel Payments will now only be available to pensioners receiving Pension Credit or other means-tested benefits. Those pensioners who are eligible for Pension Credit but have not yet claimed it stand to lose the most. Claiming Pension Credit could not only help them retain the Winter Fuel Payment but also increase their overall income – in some cases, very significantly, particularly for pensioners who are ill or disabled.

Estimates suggest that over 800,000 eligible pensioner households across the UK are not claiming Pension Credit, despite being entitled to it. This is often due to stigma,

“Those pensioners who are eligible for Pension Credit but have not yet claimed it stand to lose the most”

lack of awareness, or cultural and language barriers. According to data from Policy in Practice, there are 661 pensioner households in Uttlesford alone that are missing out on a combined total of £1,534,400 in unclaimed benefits. Stansted undoubtedly has its share of pensioners affected by this issue.

We kindly ask for your support in exploring further ways we can work together to help our older residents.

Raising awareness and encouraging more pensioners to claim the benefits they are entitled to will be essential in ensuring that vulnerable pensioners are not left without the financial support they need to stay warm and healthy this winter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can collaborate to address this critical issue.

Maureen Caton

Chair, Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council



Liberal
Democrats

Alan Dean

District Councillor for Stansted North
tel 813579 email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk



District Councillors Nick Church, Alan Dean, Ray Gooding and Geoffrey Sell write:

“Stansted’s four district councillors are challenging

Residents for Uttlesford ruling administration at Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to produce a permanent solution by replacing the council’s unsatisfactory flats and maisonettes on the northern side of Manor Road in Stansted Mountfitchet. In our opinion, the accommodation, which was built immediately after the end of World War 2, is seriously degraded, especially by water leaks seeping into the living areas from outside. This is causing unhealthy damp and mould to grow in the living areas of many of the properties

“We are working alongside some residents of Manor Road and owners of those properties bought from the district council, for whom UDC remains the superior landlord with responsibility for the fabric of the building. We are grateful for support from Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council in our quest to persuade UDC that the days of wasting tenants’ and leaseholders’ money on short-term but expensive patch-ups need to cease and instead for the buildings to be replaced by new homes fit for the 2020s.”

District Cllr Alan Dean continues:

Geoffrey Sell and I started a cross-party dialogue across the District Council about the currently intended cut to the government’s allowances for most pensioners that at present help pay for winter fuel costs. This affects 90% of pensioners living in the Uttlesford district. We think the income threshold at which pensioners would no longer qualify for Winter Fuel Payment is far too low. Our motion received unanimous support at the October council meeting

I was pleased to see a lot of familiar faces, as well as people I don’t know, at Sustainable Stansted’s Energy-saving & Sustainability Open Day in St. Theresa’s Church Hall in early October. Although my home already has solar panels for creating electricity and hot water, I know that the Deans have more to learn about energy efficiency and how to “save energy, save money (help) save our world and get a warmer, healthier home”, to quote from the group’s publicity leaflet.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

STAFF

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Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

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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:

6th November F&GP 13th November Full Council Spaces

20th November Open Spaces

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Ray GOODING

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Nick CHURCH

email: cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi BADENOCH MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

☎ 01-799-506349

email: office@northwestessexconservatives.org.uk

POLICE

PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART

email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk

Non-urgent incidents call: 101

Serious incidents call: 999 www.essex.police.uk/ro/report

Meet-up Events:

The Co-op: 3-4pm - **18th November**

TouchPoint 2.30-3.30pm **28th November**

The Co-op: 3-4pm - **29th November**

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, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during Parish Council reception hours via computer hook-up. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, November 14** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing issues, access to job training and other 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 Craic** on 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 the following Sundays: **10th November and 24th November.**



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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Tel: Simon - 07970 905360

The gardens of Easton Lodge were the subject of our September meeting, and we were given a beautifully illustrated tour of them by speaker Gary Matthews. He also introduced us to the Maynard family, owners of Easton Lodge Estate from the 1600s including Frances (known as Daisy) who inherited the estate in 1865. She grew up to be a great beauty and in 1881 married Lord Brooke. He later became Earl of Warwick and inherited Warwick Castle. Daisy became one of the great hostesses of her day and her weekend parties were the stuff of legend. She was a great supporter of Essex schools, particularly the Dunmow Elementary School. She allowed use of the Easton Lodge estate for rural studies. With HG Wells and others she formed the Dunmow and District Educational Fellowship summer school for teacher training. The grounds were used for tennis and recreation. She was President of the Fellowship until her death in 1938. Gary explained that Daisy commissioned Harold Peto to create the stunning formal gardens in 1902. During WWII Easton Lodge was used by the Army and Home Guard, and thousands of trees were felled to enable its use as an airfield. The gardens were sadly abandoned in 1950 but thanks to dedicated volunteers, they are being restored and are open to visitors on selected days from April to October. More details about this wonderful place can be found on their website www.eastonlodge.co.uk.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 20th November** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. Our speaker will be Martyn Lockwood who will be telling us about the Essex Victoria Cross winners. Why not come along and join us for the afternoon? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

RED CROSS FESTIVE GIFT FAIR

This year's fair is on **Monday 4th November** 10.00am-3.00pm in Fanhams Hall, Ware SG12 7PZ. This Jacobean manor house is in a glorious setting with stunning gardens.



You will find a selection of unusual and interesting stalls selling an array of goods not always found on the high street. There is ample free parking and light refreshments are available. Entry is free. For further details telephone 07716 097711 or email: emmajaneslater@redcross.org.uk.

Christine Stiles

October was a busy month for the Trustee who is leading the planning for the restoration of the Italian Garden. We have photos of the sunken garden as it was completed: its stone faced parapets and walls, stone steps and paving. The picture below was taken in 1903! We restored the balustrade around the lilypond in 2021 and have now built up the Trust's funds again, so we can support more match funding. There are lots of potential options for the next project. It will be challenging work for specialists, so will take a while, but it is exciting to be on the case again and we will report on progress.



With the gates closed and no visitors until the snowdrop season in February, volunteers' efforts will be to put the Gardens to bed for the winter as well as seasonal planting. They will be lifting the dahlias in order to look after any tubers which survived the insatiable slugs and snails in the early summer. It will be a chance for a stocktake, ready for a big revamping of the dahlia border next year.

Damage from local deer continues to be significant, so we will need to work on making new tree plantings even more secure. We have other big winter projects in mind too, including further work to extend the Japanese style garden, improvements to the entrance area and erecting a greenhouse to enable us to propagate from our plants.

One of the Trust's volunteers provides talks to local groups about the history of Easton Lodge, the Countess of Warwick and the Gardens. If you would like to arrange a talk contact us on the email address below. Please see opposite for details of one of these talks. For more information about the Trust please see our website.

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

DON'T FORGET!

The next issue of The Link will
cover December 2024 and January 2025

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BRAIN TRAINING

Toe winking

There is much research going on into fall prevention and it seems that weak feet increase risk of falling. Also, when running, we should be taking off from a strong and straight big toe. The simplest test to gauge relevant foot strength, specifically the toe flexors, is called the *Wink Sign*. Stand in bare feet, with them hip width apart and straight. Now lean forwards a bit, pressing the pads of the toes (not the tips) into the floor. You should see a crease appearing just below the toenails. It is clearest across the 2nd 3rd and 4th toes but can be felt clearly on the big toes. The accompanying photo shows five nicely winking toes!



Pressing the toes like this activates the four layers of muscles within the foot itself, so strengthening the arch. Big toes bending towards the little toes will make the wink sign more difficult and lead to greater chance of falling and rubbish running. It is very easy to get a toe spacer, which will encourage the big toe to straighten up again, but along with this you also

need to strengthen a muscle called the Abductor Hallucis, which runs from the foot end of the big toe to the heel. As this muscle contracts, that too helps the arch to lift and strengthen. Even if you have had a bunion operation, it is very wise to strengthen this muscle to avoid the bunion returning. A nice exercise to do is to rock forwards, with your body stiff like a board and have your toes wink. Then return to neutral stance. Do not overdo the pressure with the pads of the toes otherwise you may encourage an annoying case of plantar fasciitis.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



RECYCLING



Foreign Coins Welcome

Thank you to all those who have donated their foreign and old UK coins; please keep them coming. 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. Everything collected is sold by weight to raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). We are also still collecting spectacles with or without cases, along with ink cartridges (**not** toners), stamps, mobile phones, ipads and tablets (**not** laptops). 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.

A reminder that there are two organisations which refurbish laptops or printers 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 or Townstech in Harlow tel 898240 www.townstech.co.uk. If you have Dell equipment, including monitors, you can recycle directly with them; go to www.dell.com and search for recycling.

Aldi and Coop Packaging

Aldi in Bishop's Stortford will accept the following: crisp packets, pet food pouches, plastic film, sweet wrappers, plastic bags, biscuit wrappers and bread bags. Stansted Co-op also has a collection point near the entrance for vegetable, fruit and bread bags, crisp packets and biscuit wrappers. Please note *that we are not collecting on behalf of Aldi or the Co-op so please do not bring these items to the church*.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest



As we move from Autumn into Winter, the Forest's orange and yellow leaves give way to the barer winter trees. This change in season is causing erosion of our historic woodland rides; if you come across a diversion, please follow it and discover a new route. From early November the Forest will only be open from Wednesday until Sunday 9.00am-2.30pm. The café remains open until 3.00pm serving hot food and warming drinks for this colder weather.



Hatfield Forest venison is now available to purchase from the Estate Office. We manage deer numbers in the Forest so that the damage they cause to the woodland is insignificant. We are also selling logs from the Forest at £120 per bag (approximately 1.2 cubic metres) including delivery. The logs are seasoned and comply with DEFRA regulations. Call us on 870678 to place an order. Payment is by card only, upon delivery. If you need to relax in this busy world, then try our *Breathe and Journal*. The next session is on **Sunday 3rd November** 9.15am-10.15am. It is perfect for anyone who wants to relax, release and restore through a combination of breathwork and journaling. Details can be found on our website. Enjoy your visit.

Hannah Underwood
Tel: 870678

Email: Hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

The work parties have continued with the mowing of the meadow areas, although the frequent rain in late September and early October has played havoc with our schedule and delayed us moving on to the other reserves such as Rushy Mead in Bishop's Stortford. We have also been pollarding some willow trees that were starting to crowd over one end of the top pond, creating too much shade. We will be doing further tree work on the banks of the two lower ponds, both of which would benefit from some increased daylight.



Whilst working on the ponds we were pleased to note the presence of a grey wagtail. With its constantly bobbing tail and yellow under tail and belly it was a real delight to watch it hunting for insects around the pond margins. The grey wagtail was a red list species (birds that are at risk of extinction and require immediate action) until quite recently. However, in a rare improvement of fortunes for our birds it has recently been moved to the amber list (birds of conservation concern but not critically endangered). This led me to enquire whether we had any breeding birds in the reserve that were now on the red list. The answer is yes, the mistle thrush. It seems that the decline in this species is not fully understood but I am happy to report that our pair at Aubrey Buxton seem to be doing OK. This year they raised two broods.

John Welham
Warden

Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

The outdoor season has now come to an end, and we turn our attention to indoor bowling on carpet where the rain cannot stop play. Although it is similar to outdoor bowling it is not exactly the same. We have entered our Seniors into the indoor league and other members have entered teams into pairs and triples competitions, so we are still quite active. We are open at the Clubhouse every Friday evening from 7.00pm. A carpet bowls league is planned and also a darts league. We are also planning to hold a number of events such as quiz nights during the close season; details will be in the Link as well as on the village notice boards and

outside the Clubhouse in Recreation Ground. All are most welcome.

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 to the Club on a Friday evening where one of the players will show you around. Or drop me an email and I will help answer your questions and get you started. Please see our website for further information. We are also on Facebook: Stansted Bowling Club.

Peter Beattie
Hon Secretary

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com



Our very own Jolly Green Giants!

Picking the amazing corn on the cob at Human Roots this year brought back memories of the iconic Jolly Green Giant TV advert. We were delighted with our sweetcorn harvest, but you need patience to wait for those dark tassels before you pick them. It was well worth the wait; even the raw kernels tasted sweet. We have already decided we will try baby sweetcorn next year.



The harvest season is closing in with autumn now here, and it feels like the allotment is changing colour; greens are making way for orange and we have a bounty of colourful squashes. When ready to harvest, we are hoping to donate a large amount of squash to Touchpoint for their upcoming cooking lessons. 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



FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The past month has been really difficult for the first team as injuries have ravaged team selection, forcing our management to move players into playing unfamiliar positions. At one stage a third of the squad were unavailable, and with one of our centre backs being concussed during a league game at Newham, we had to enforce the FA's protocol on head injuries: a 14-day mandatory break from all forms of football. So whilst results have not gone the way we wished, the team has responded to these setbacks and continues to be competitive. Our Youth teams are well into their seasons now and sit comfortably in mid-table in their respective league tables, the exception being our under 9s who have already been promoted two divisions in their first season as they were winning their first few league games too easily! Sadly our Over 45s suffered a home defeat in the Essex County Veterans Trophy; however they are confident that their season will soon pick up.

Away from the field of play the Club has had some fruitful discussions with Stansted's local well-being community organisation, Touchpoint, regarding the introduction of Walking Football to our area. Those interested should look out for notices which will have more detail as the partnership grows. 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 November:

2 nd	Barking Essex Sr League Premier Division	3.00pm
7 th	Royston Town Under 18s	
	Thurlow Nunn Youth League	7.45pm
12 th	Little Oakley League Cup	7.45pm
14 th	Haverhill Borough Under 18s	
	Thurlow Nunn Youth League	7.45pm
30 th	Sawbridgeworth ESL Premier Division	3.00pm



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

A busy yet enjoyable season is now finished. The end of season groundwork is complete including substantial work on the wicket. The Club's 50th Anniversary of Cricket at Stansted House culminated in a very successful day on 30th June. This was attended by many Club members and former members including Harry Judd, drummer of *McFly* and winner of *Strictly Come Dancing*. Sadly, former President Brian Thornton died a few days before the event. He was the owner of Stansted House who invited the Club to play in his garden in 1974. However, two of his sons came to our special day.

On the pitch the 1st XI finished mid-table in the Premier Division of the Herts and Essex Border League but unfortu-

nately the 2nd XI were relegated from Division 2. The 3rd XI finished towards the bottom of Division 3 but the youngsters who played in this team gained valuable experience of league cricket whilst enjoying themselves. Winter nets will begin in January for all age groups. It will be a busy winter for Ollie Patmore as he studies for his English Cricket Board Level 3 accreditation. Good luck Ollie!

The annual general knowledge quiz will take place in late January, and the committee will be busy getting organised for the 2025 season. We will be actively looking for new playing members of all ages for the coming season aged 5 (All Stars) upwards. We are very much a community club.



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



Stansted Tennis Club

Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

We recently held a family event, organised by coach Dan Warwick, where both members and non-members took part in an adult and child tennis challenge. Teams had to work together to complete a variety of tennis-based challenges, including hitting lots of shots at different targets. Sixteen teams entered, competing for the grand prize of a one-year junior membership at the club, and of course the prestige of winning the first STC adult and child tennis challenge event. In an incredibly impressive show of up-and-coming talent in the club, as well as some shots that would not be out of place at Wimbledon, our eventual winners were Eireann and Camilla Poole. The day was a great success.



On 6th October 16 players entered the Kitson Trophy competition. Winners were Marta Hensall and David Murfitt who defeated Daphne Lunnnon and Zoe Westwood 6-1. Rick Lim and Sue Simpson were winners of the consolation round, defeating Gail Hogg and Jon Budd in a close final 4-3. Please check out our website for further information about the Club.

Debbie Lane
Tel: 07870 071983
Email: debbielane@gmail.com

Letters from Santa

In December, Arthur Bear, from Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, is teaming up with the North Pole, to bring the magic of Christmas to Stansted. For a small donation, Santa will send a personalised letter directly to the special little people in your life.



Not only will your little ones experience the magic of Christmas, but your generous contribution will directly support patients and their loved ones. Visit www.arhc.org.uk/santa or call 01223 675888 to order your letter from Santa; remember to register before 8th December to make sure your letter arrives on time.

Donations instead of presents

When John and Jane Goose celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary earlier this year, they decided to ask for donations to the Alan Hudson Centre, under the umbrella of Arthur Rank Hospice Charity, instead of gifts.

They wanted to show their appreciation to the centre in Wisbech who had treated Jane's mother and father. We are very grateful for their generosity, which enables more patients to receive care at no cost to them. If you would like to donate to charity instead of receiving gifts for your special occasion, please visit www.arhc.org.uk/fundraising. Alternatively please email: fundraising@arhc.org.uk or telephone 01223 675888.

Virginia Goode
Communications Officer

QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Edward Jenner 2 Sheep 3 1980 4 14
5 Victor 6 George Stubbs 7 Pacific 8 14
9 Blue Whale 10 Pepperoni (mushroom is second)
11 Trumpet 12 Oasis 13 Snow White and the Seven Dwarves 14 Bananas 15 Oxford

???

Help Needed

The following have been set up by a small group of people:

- A biodiversity study of the village has been commissioned
- Planting meadow flowers is planned to be an ongoing programme for the Parish Council. Two areas have been completed: by the northern Knight Sign at High Lane and at the junction of Rainsford Road and Pennington Lane. Please let us have suggestions for any other potential sites. Why not try doing a small bed in your own garden? Enjoy the colours and help biodiversity.

We are now considering the other initiatives shown below, and would really welcome volunteer help for these and the existing projects:

- Helping businesses to go green
- Identifying suitable, safe cycling routes so that we can lobby Uttlesford, Essex and housing developers to make this a reality
- A free toy exchange before Christmas. Most families have items which are not used or needed but still have plenty of life in them. Could you help by donating toys or volunteering to run the event?

If you can offer any help to our group, want to find out more or have any ideas for protecting or restoring our environment, please contact us; we would love to hear from you.

Peter Jones

Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com



www.support4sight.org.uk

We at Support 4 Sight (S4S) are here to help blind and partly sighted people, their carers and families. We run a number of coffee mornings:

- Last Friday of the month 10.30am-noon at The Old School Community Café, Takeley CM22 6SB
- First Tuesday of the month 9.30am-11.45am at Community Link, 1B Market St, Saffron Walden CB10 1HX
- Last Tuesday of the month 10.30am-noon at the Bowls Club, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden CB10 1DG.

Low vision equipment can be demonstrated at the coffee morning. Please call us on 01245 933572 beforehand to chat through equipment you would like to see on the day. In addition we have meetings in Harlow, Braintree, Epping, Witham and Chelmsford. See our website for more information.

Clive Farley
Volunteer and Trustee

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUB

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: croutchere@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: 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
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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 140507	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell	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.	
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		

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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