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Front cover

Lower Street

by Dale Crowson

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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If you do not receive your copy please email: distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk or telephone 813680

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

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

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

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EDITORIAL



The lovely street scene on the front cover is very familiar to all of us, and thanks again to Dale Crowson for submitting it. It is great to have so many talented photographers amongst our readers. The beautiful flowers help make that corner of the village so special, and thanks to the Social Club for their glorious floral displays. Following on from the *Stansted Sings Together* August theme, there are two more choral concerts from local choirs: the Stansted u3a Singers (p28) and the Village Voices (p3).

We had a good response to the Caption Competition, with eight readers sending in their witty and amusing ideas as to what the Rev'd was thinking, see p25. The Link Chairman Mike Dyer was the judge and he was scrupulously fair; he asked only to see the thoughts but not the people who wrote them, so there was no question of bias. Thanks so much for the positive response and if anyone has a photograph which would lend itself to a Caption Competition, do send one in. Talking of photos, a few people who have submitted articles will be surprised to see that their photo has not been included. This is often because the picture is much too small to be used and would look fuzzy in print, or it has a portrait orientation. The latter is easy to understand, since mobile phones are used invariably in the portrait position, but only landscape pictures can be successfully used inside. I mention this as I do not want hurt feelings because your photo was not used.

Father Orango of St Theresa's Catholic Church has written a powerful Thought for the Month on p14, with a total focus on Peace. Ah me, so sadly apt these days. On a more down-to-earth matter, I am hoping that the peace from a good night's sleep will not be shattered again by very loud and obnoxious noises from the airport in the wee hours (p28). Enjoy September, often the most beautiful month of the year.

Ed



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

On Sunday 11th August, the Club celebrated its 50th birthday with an afternoon tea party in St John's Hall. It was wonderful to see so many people associated with the Club there. A hundred guests joined us to share stories of the Club's activities over the last 50 years and remember everyone involved, in particular founders Marion and Tom Johnson who started the Club in memory of their son, Huw.



Thank you to the Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society for performing for guests and to everyone involved in making the afternoon such a success. The Club will restart on **Thursday 17th September**. As always, anyone interested in attending or volunteering for the Club, please get in touch.

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



www.letstalkstansted.org

Celebrating Four Years of Let's Talk, Stansted!

The organisation was set up in 2020 at the height of the Covid pandemic. Tragically, in a very short space of time, our village lost three of its residents to suicide. A group of people came together with one single aim: to ensure that we do everything we can to let people know that they are not alone. With the support of MIND in West Essex we have trained over 40 residents as registered *Mental Health First Aiders*, providing them with the confidence to assist people. We hold regular events and support activities in and around the village to promote awareness, help break down the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage people to talk. These include socials, veg shed, open water swimming community, local men's football team, walking group and yoga and mindfulness classes.

September marks the 11th World Suicide Prevention Day and we embrace the theme of *Changing the Narrative on Suicide* with an associated call to action of *Start the Conversation*. Changing the narrative aims to inspire individuals, communities, organisations and governments to engage in open discussions about suicide and suicidal behaviour. By initiating these vital conversations, we create better cultures of understanding and support. In October we will be hosting our 4th annual Wellbeing Festival on **Sunday 13th October** in St John's Church and Hall. It is a great way to meet all kinds of wellbeing organisations and local groups as well as an opportunity to treat yourself to some wonderful products and gifts. If you would like a stall at this year's festival, please contact us. Please do remember, if you need to talk, we are here to listen.

Rachel Dawes
Email: info@letstalkstansted.org

VILLAGE VOICES

Village Voices is a new community choir based in Manuden. It was started in November 2022 by Tish McDermott, and our first formal concert is on **Saturday 28th September** at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church, Manuden. The programme includes a variety of popular songs such as *California Dreamin'*, *Here comes the Sun*, *Dancing Queen*, *Sweet Dreams are made of this*, and *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, for which we will be joined by Bishop's Stortford Brass Band, who will also be playing some numbers on their own. The accompanist is Keith Willis. Tickets: adults £7.50, under 15s £3.00, are available from Tish 07712 827230, Valerie 814544, or on the door. There will be interval drinks and all proceeds from the evening will go to the church.

The choir comprises 20 singers and we sing in two or three parts. I was encouraged to join three months ago by Fran Richards and I enjoy it immensely. New members are always welcome, both male and female voices; it is not necessary to read music, as Tish is very thorough and makes sure everyone knows their part. If you like to sing, why not give it a try? There are several of us from Stansted who car share so you do not necessarily have to drive yourself. We rehearse on Thursdays 7.30pm-9.00pm in Manuden Village Community Centre. Tish works us hard, but we have a good laugh along the way, and the atmosphere is very relaxed. Please contact me for more information.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: marion@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

OPEN STUDIO

www.hvaf.org.uk/our-events/herts-open-studios

I am participating in the Herts Visual Arts open studio event on **21st-22nd September**. I studied Fine Art Painting at Brighton University and have exhibited my work at fairs, festival and galleries across the East of England including The Gibberd Gallery, The Minorities and Babylon Arts.



My studio at 12 Highmead will be open 10.00am-4.00pm on both days. My work is often inspired by local history and folklore and I am keen to share my love of painting with the local community. For more information please visit the website or contact me.

Aine Corr
Tel: 07787 514280
Email: ainecorrart@hotmail.com



Sown, Planted and Grown at Human Roots

Come rain or shine, our volunteers have been busy on the allotment. We have been using spare beer kindly donated by the Dog and Duck pub; this has proved to be a great success helping the plants grow, while bringing a drunken end for the slugs and snails.



Cathy Mizzard delivering produce to Touchpoint

The vegetables that were sown, planted and nurtured throughout spring are now coming to fruition and ready to harvest. It is time to share the fruits of our labour, so we are now able to supply produce to Touchpoint for their food share on a more regular basis during the harvest season. Giving something back to the community really makes the hard work worthwhile, knowing local residents will benefit and in a small way also eliminating food waste; this gives us a real sense of pride. 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.

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team, please email: cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the July draw:

£200	No 145	Stuart Ayres
£100	No 5	Linda and Tony Gurr
£ 50	No 132	Katy Dockerill
£ 25	No 4	Linda and Tony Gurr

The draw for September will be held on **29th September** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available for anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062
Email: jean733@btinternet.com

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID HAWKES

21st February 1943-28th July 2024



David was born in Woodford Green and his sister arrived five years later. As he grew up he developed good practical skills and when he left school at 15 he joined a local firm where he served a five-year carpentry apprenticeship. During this time he worked on the building of Harlow Town Station and this is where we met. We married in 1966 and first lived in Brewery Lane, moving to Bentfield Road in 1980.

David was a keen fisherman and a founder member of the Stansted Angling Society where he served as treasurer for some years and was a member until we moved away from Stansted. He loved the countryside, and together with our daughters Zoe and Karen, we enjoyed holidays to many lovely locations with our touring caravan. One of David's hobbies was photography and he was pleased when his photo of a Hatfield Forest snow scene was chosen for the *Stop Stansted Expansion* Christmas card one year.

In 2014 David and I moved to Langdon Hills, South Essex to be closer to our family. It was a difficult but sensible decision to leave Stansted as David had undergone major surgery for prostate cancer and had developed other health problems. At our new home he was determined to keep busy in his workshop. He raised funds for the local hospice by making and selling the wooden toys he made. In 2022 David was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. He had been undergoing treatment when he succumbed to pneumonia. He was a much-loved husband, father and grandfather to our four grandchildren.

Lesley Hawkes



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Please join us for the School Fun Day from noon-3.00pm on **Saturday 7th September 2024** at our school on St John's Road. We were unable to hold the event in July due to

adverse weather so we are looking forward to welcoming everyone from the village for fun and games in September.

Entry is free! There will be something for all ages, from bouncy castles and face painting, to BBQ (supported by Idel Meats), cakes, Pimms, ice cream van, live entertainment (including from Ellouise Elite Acro-dance and singers) and a raffle, plus much-loved traditional fair games. Why not bring a picnic blanket and spend the afternoon with us? All funds raised will go to provide resources to support the children of Magna Carta Primary.

Magna Carta Stansted PTA

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

Summer is a quieter time for the volunteer group as we leave nature to its own devices before we start again in autumn with the cutting of the meadows. However, one job that we do undertake is control of the Himalayan Balsam. This plant can grow to over head height and is able to tolerate low light levels allowing it to grow in the more shaded and less accessible areas of the reserve. It produces pink flowers that add a splash of colour and are a good source of nectar for insects such as bees which can penetrate the helmet shaped flowers. The problem is that it grows quickly and shades out native species. Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds and has the amazing ability to shoot these seeds up to seven meters. If left unchecked it would dominate significant areas of the reserve.



Himalyan Balsam

As we do not use chemical or biological controls in the reserve the only solution is to pull up each plant before it sets seed. In this way we are gradually reducing the numbers of this plant in the reserve, even if a lack of control on neighbouring properties means that we are unlikely to ever completely eradicate it. I must thank the volunteers who turn out every year to help with this task. Now that the woods are quieter it is a good time to appreciate the meadow areas, which on a sunny afternoon are busy with bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other insects.

John Welham
Warden

Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk



Green Waste Skip Dates

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

**1st, 15th & 29th Sep
13th & 27th Oct**



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Windmill Open

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 1st Sep

Sun 6th Oct

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STANSTED IS WELL READ

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WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

1/15/29 Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
1 Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
3 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
5 Thu	Local History Society	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
7 Sat	Magna Carta Fun Day	St John's Road noon - 3 pm
9 Mon	Link copy due in today	before noon
10 Tue	The Arts Society B S RSPB	South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
12 Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
15 Sun	Arthur Rank Charity Walk Open Day	Parker's Piece, Cambridge 9.30 am Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
18 Wed	Ugley W I Newport Flower Club	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm Ugley Village Hall 7 pm
19 Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St John's Hall 2 pm
21 Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am
27 Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Old Lane House 10.30 am
28 Sat	Grove Cottage Walk Elsenham Farmers' Market	Tesco, B Stortford All day Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

FUN DAY

Noon - 3 pm Sat 7th Sep

***Bouncy Castle • Face Painting
Traditional Fair Games***

Raffle • BBQ • Pimms • Cakes

*All Welcome ~ Bring a Blanket
Entry Free*

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 10th Sep

South Mill Arts

***The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl
Fabergé: before the Revolution
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Guests welcome Entry £7
Coffee served from 10 am
Tel 656065 for more information

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7.30 pm Tue 10th Sep

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www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



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9.30 am - 2 pm Sun 15th Sep

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FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

East London Food Tour: A Multicultural Culinary Adventure

In July, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to attend a school trip that took them on a fascinating East London food tour. This vibrant area, known for its rich cultural diversity, offered the students a unique chance to explore and savour foods from around the world. They were immediately immersed in the lively atmosphere of East London's streets. The air was filled with the tantalising aromas of exotic spices and freshly cooked dishes, setting the stage for an unforgettable culinary journey.



Students ventured into a bustling market, where they had the chance to try Turkish kebabs, filled with succulent, marinated meats and fresh vegetables, wrapped in soft, warm pitta bread. The market stalls were a feast for the senses, with colourful displays of fruits, vegetables and an array of international delicacies. Throughout the day, the students not only enjoyed delicious food but also learned about the cultural significance and history behind each cuisine. The food tour was more than just a day out of the classroom; it was an educational adventure that broadened their culinary horizons. The trip was a resounding success, leaving students with full stomachs and a greater understanding of the multicultural fabric that makes up our society. The memories and tastes of this adventure will surely stay with them for years to come.

Kayleigh Trainor

Email: trainork1@bmatforesthall.org.uk

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Work on his series of architectural guide books, *The Buildings of England*, began in 1945. The edition covering the whole of Hertfordshire was published in 1953; Essex and Cambridgeshire followed in 1954. Most of the ancient architecture in The Hundred Parishes is mentioned by Pevsner in these three editions, either in general terms or in great detail. Here is one local example in the Essex edition: *Manuden has a specially pretty, short village street with timber framed cottages with oversailing upper floors near the church and a small assortment of Georgian houses a little further west.*

In Cambridgeshire, he described the Norman interior of Ickleton's parish church as having *few equals in the country*. In Hertfordshire, the 17th century almshouses in Buntingford were described by Pevsner as *the stateliest alms houses in the county*. Pevsner was granted British citizenship in



1946, appointed CBE in 1953 and knighted in 1969 for services to art and architecture. In total, he was responsible for 46 county-wide guides. He died in Hampstead in 1983.

Our website has more than 100 walk routes that can be freely downloaded. The route descriptions draw attention to some of the listed buildings that are on these walks.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



TREFOIL GUIDING

www.trefoilguild.co.uk

Trefoil is Guiding for adults, so is open to anyone aged 18 and over. Guiding experience is not essential, but following the Guiding ethos would be expected. Join Trefoil for fun, friendship, adventure and challenges. You will have opportunities to learn new skills, get involved with your local community, and support Girlguiding.

Our group is called the Saffron Walden Trefoil Guild, but we meet at different venues between Saffron Walden and Bishop's Stortford, depending on which activity we are doing. We usually meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 10.30am to noon. Recent activities have included making a meal in a mug; visiting Scotsdales Garden Centre, lighting fires to cook on, with a bit of campfire singing, and walking in Hatfield Forest. Future plans include curling, Christmas crafts and, of course, a Christmas meal.

For more information, please see the website or contact: Lesley Ingham, Chairman, 07706 559662; Angela Lench, Secretary, email: angelalench@hotmail.com or me.



Glynis Prothero
Tel: 814145



1ST STANSTED BEAVERS AND CUBS



The Beavers and Cubs have been very busy these last few weeks working on lots of badges and making the most of being outside. We had a trip to the beach at Canvey where we spent lots of time crabbing and litter picking. We also took part in nuclear races where we got very muddy but had a brilliant time.



We are in the process of planning next term. If you would like your child to join us please get in touch to go on our waiting list. We are also looking for more adults to help us.

Angela Madigan
Beaver Scout Leader
Email: mickj4@hotmail.com



SCOUTS HAVE FUN IN THE SUN

This summer's Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) near Chelmsford was the largest Scout and Guide gathering in Europe. Our 20 Scouts and five adults joined 8,000 others from 43 countries at the first EIJ for eight years due to Covid. This year's theme was rivers of the world; participants were split into 10 sub-camps.



This full-on week of varied activities included climbing, go-karting, clay pigeon shooting, survival skills, archery, air rifles, abseiling, kayaking, shelter building, backwoods fires, tracking, sweet making, zip line and more. We also took part in mixed country teams in the *It's a Knock Out* tournament. In the evenings there were live bands, or you could try some circus skills or relax in the soft rock café. Much badge swapping went on, the best swaps being with the international Scouts.

Thursday was *EIJ In a Day* when some of our Beavers and Cubs came to see what it was all about. This should hopefully entice them to the next EIJ in 2028. That evening also saw many stalls for the Scouts to hand out and sample cuisine from different countries. Jude cooked the King's coronation quiche and ours was the first stall to run out.


The week was an excellent opportunity for more Scouts to achieve their Gold awards; well done Daisy, Abby and Matilda for gaining theirs. Many of us took the opportunity to walk around the rest of the site, the only way to appreciate the sheer size of it all, one mile long and half a mile wide! By the end of the week, some very tired Scouts and leaders returned home with memories and souvenirs of a fabulous week.

Mike, Mark, Angela, Jude, John
The Jamboree team
Email: Stanstedscouts@hotmail.co.uk



We will be holding our annual Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan on **Friday 27th September** from 10.30am at Old Lane House, Church Road CM24 8PY. There will be a cake stall, bring and buy sale and a raffle. Please support this worthy cause; everyone is very welcome.

Christine and Bill Stiles
Tel: 813172



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the osteopath


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

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The gardens have looked surprisingly good, despite the intermittent spring and summer; the roses, trees and grass have benefited from the rain and are looking very lush. The Italian Garden borders have changed colours through the season and are now moving into late summer gold, framed by the lavender hedge, golden yew and the buddleia.

Unfortunately, the dahlia border in the walled kitchen garden has barely recovered from the incessant slug damage in early summer. Our patient volunteers have, eventually, managed to get vegetables growing and it has been lovely to see visitors leaving with bags full for a healthy supper.

As reported by others, there have been relatively few butterflies this year, but we have had many dragonflies. It will be interesting to find out from our bat walk on **Friday 6th September** at 7.00pm whether we still have the range of bats that usually frequent the gardens. Please email us to reserve a place on this walk.



We have been harvesting soft fruit for jams and jellies and the apples have been swelling on their trees. Things are shaping up for our Apples and Bees day on **Sunday 15th September** 11.00am-5.00pm.



It will be a fun celebration of orchard produce, including apple juicing, apple and honey cake tasting, apple crafts for kids and much more. There will be plant and craft stalls plus music from local groups *Rock Choir* and *Harlow Concert Band*. Please see our website for Sunday discounted advance tickets.



Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01372 876979

Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

TAI CHI

Tai Chi for Health was developed by Mr Moy Lin Shin in Canada; he recognised the need for a secular form of Tai Chi which focused on the health benefits of regular practice. Described as a moving meditation by Dr Michael Mosely in his regular *Just One Thing* series to improve your health, Tai Chi's benefits have been rigorously studied. It is a gentle practice which exercises the mind as much as the body and is very suitable for older people. You do not need any fancy equipment, just comfortable clothing and footwear. You are invited to attend a free taster session on **Wednesday 18th September** at 10.00am in Birchanger Village Hall and if you are interested in learning more you could join the Beginners class which runs from 9.00am-10.00am. Starter fee is £30 for six sessions, ongoing fee is £55 per quarter. I will aim to run the Beginners class for about six months so that once you have learnt the basics you can join our continuing class. I am an accredited teacher with Essex Tai Chi Academy where teachers volunteer their time and knowledge to benefit everyone's health and wellbeing. See www.essextaichiacademy.org or contact me for further details.

Cait Goddard

Tel: 07415 628 935

Email: cait.etca@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

As I write we are three weeks away from our August Bank Holiday Fête, with fingers crossed that the weather is kind to us again. There are still two more Open Days this year on **Sunday 1st September** and **Sunday 6th October**, so if you are one of those people who have lived in the village for a while but never got round to exploring the mill, you can still put that right.

We are currently reviewing our range of mill goods that we sell to raise money. We have the traditional souvenirs such as pens, pencils, postcards, badges, fridge magnets, mugs, window stickers, tea towels and windmills for the children. You can also buy an all purpose, authentic hessian sack with the Stansted Mill branding.



The photo shows miller George Hawkins modelling one of the multipurpose sacks in front of the mill goods display unit. All councillors are granted money to donate to good causes, and we are very grateful to Councillor Sell for allocating some of his to the Mill, which we used to produce an activity sheet for our young visitors. Thanks also to *The*

Design Mill who gave us very good *mates rates* on the design and printing of the sheets.

Trevor Lloyd

Tel: 07739 428352

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Come and have fun on the farm this summer and bring your friends. We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a picnic area, den building, a splashing stream, a woodland trail to explore, themed crafts, refreshments, ice creams, many animals to see and so much more. We also still have lots of babies of all sorts including chicks and ducklings, and you can even cuddle the lambs and kid goats; they all love our visitors. Entry is £6 and under 1s are free and it really is a wonderful day out for all the family.



We also have our lovely campsite, and you can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or stay in our camping paddock where there is lots of space and beautiful scenery. All of these options obviously include entry to the farm; what a fabulous holiday and all for just £25 a night as well as being right on your doorstep! Please book through our website, thank you. The holidays might be coming to an end, but the fun does not have to! There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all, so do be sure to come and visit us. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973



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; it continues to be a popular meeting place. All ages are welcome, although particularly suitable for children. We look forward to seeing our regular visitors, and recently welcomed some new babies and mums, who enjoyed the opportunity for a hot drink and a chat. Parents, carers and all age visitors are welcome to drop in. The children have plenty of space to run around and play with the toys, and everyone joins in with the Sing-Along at around 10.30am. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea or coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



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



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

Apologies in advance for some serious self-congratulation but all the stars aligned in July at the school to deliver us not a triple whammy but a quadruple one! In brief, our Year 6 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) results were not only our best ever but they smashed the national average in both expected and greater depth in reading, maths and spag (spelling, punctuation and grammar).

	St Mary's	National
Reading at expected level	90%	74%
Reading at greater depth	60%	28%
Maths at expected level	93%	73%
Maths at greater depth	40%	23%
Spag at expected level	90%	72%
Spag at greater depth	55%	31%

Our glowing Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMs) report shows how our shared vision has helped to shape our school and the learning within it. Our parent survey was a delight to read with a very high overall level of satisfaction, 93% agreeing or strongly agreeing that their child was happy at school. Please read the results of the SIAMs report and the parent survey on our website.

Lastly, our amazing *St Mary's Has Talent PTFA Summer Fair* had an astounding 500 people through the door and funds are still being counted but will be definitely over £6,000! It proves what we have always known, ours is a high achieving and happy school, hugely supported by parents. We would like to thank the whole St Mary's community: pupils, staff, helpers, volunteers, parents and carers, for everything they have done to make this such a successful year for the school.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk



Exciting start to new academic year!

The School has made a fresh start to the new academic year with both a new logo and uniform. Children, staff and governors agreed they would like to embrace a new *activewear* uniform. As a school we pride ourselves on our approach and care regarding our school community's mental and physical health; last year saw the introduction of active playtimes through our *Outdoor Play and Learning Programme*. Although the uniform remains similar on the top half, with a polo shirt and sweatshirt or cardigan, the bottom half has changed so that children wear shorts or skirts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms and trainers. This allows the children to feel comfortable whilst learning, and also be ready for any activities such as PE, Forest School or playtime.

We are accepting new pupil applications and welcome visits to the school. If you would like to come and have a look around please call Carolyn Field on 812362 or email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The days are getting shorter, but we are still here if you are in need of company or just want to get out of the house, 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

STANSTED EVENING WI



Our July meeting was slightly different from usual as we all took our own refreshments to give the tea and cake volunteers a break. Our speaker, Tony Tutton took us back to the coronation of Queen Elizabeth when he entertained everyone with a specially written song at the age of six. He then took us on a fascinating trip through the major influences of his life from Bing Crosby right up to David Bowie. He interspersed this with various music and songs from the different decades and we were able to sing along with the majority of them. He has been in many bands and is still performing now. It was a very interesting and lively evening and we look forward to him visiting us again.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 12th September** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when our speaker is Dorothy O'Grady who is going to show us *Ways with Wrapping*. The competition is a trinket box. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr

Tel: 07743 549241

THANK YOU

Praise and thanks to Stansted Villagers! Coming off Black Bridge, two young men called to two people at the bottom of the path *Let the woman through*, which they did; an antidote to the usual reports of *they never think of others*.

The next day, I was coming up Stoney Brook; it was very hot and I had a heavy bag. Three good samaritans came out as I came over dizzy, held on to a fence post, and slid gently to the ground. The first one gave me a bar of chocolate, the second came over to see how he could help, and the third, a young mum, took me in her car to Forest Hall, where I was staying. Many thanks and God bless to them and everyone in Stansted, such a friendly and welcoming place.

Margaret

A visitor from Cheshire

IN THE GARDEN

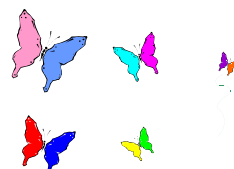
Hopefully by now everyone has managed to pick some garden vegetables. It has been a difficult growing season with slugs and snails in abundance. Many gardeners have come up with various ways of dealing with them: crushed baked eggshells, coffee grains, beer traps, garlic water spray, perlite and vermiculite. A good ecosystem is the only answer. However, in the past 50 years, the UK has seen a 41% decline in our wildlife, with farmland birds down 54%, and significant losses in insects and mammals due to habitat loss, agriculture, urbanisation and climate change, underscoring the need for urgent conservation efforts. What can we, as gardeners, do to help?



Firstly, planting native species is crucial. A mixed hedgerow of hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, dog rose, honeysuckle, hazel and holly not only looks beautiful but can provide food and habitat for local insects, birds and mammals. Additionally, incorporating a mix of flowers, shrubs and trees within the garden can create a layered environment, offering shelter and nesting sites for different species. Water is another vital element. Installing a small pond or birdbath can attract amphibians, birds, and insects. Ensure that ponds have gently sloping sides to allow creatures easy access and exit. Adding aquatic plants can further enhance the habitat, providing cover and breeding sites.

Creating diverse microhabitats within the garden is also beneficial. Leave some areas wild with log piles, rockeries, and leaf litter, which offer homes for invertebrates, small mammals and reptiles. Bird feeders and nesting boxes can support avian visitors, especially during winter months.

Finally, avoid using pesticides and chemicals, which can harm wildlife. Opt for organic gardening methods to maintain a healthy and thriving ecosystem. By making these simple changes, gardeners can transform their outdoor spaces into havens for wildlife, enjoying the beauty and benefits of a vibrant, natural garden.



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



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HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

September is a great time to visit the Forest, go for a walk and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. The school holidays are over but summer and sunshine are still with us. The variety of habitats here attract many birds. Resident species include small woodland birds such as linnets and the ducks on the lake. Look out for moorhen, robin, goldcrest, greenfinch, yellowhammer, reed warbler, mute swan, grebe and green woodpecker. Watch out overhead for buzzards and red kites soaring over the open areas, hunting for prey.



You may spot one of our beautiful butterflies. Thanks to coppice restoration and ride management, a growing number of butterfly species can be found in the Forest, including the recently rediscovered silver-washed fritillary (pictured), white admiral and purple emperor. Look closely and you may also spot a spider weaving its web or creating a nest.



Our last theatrical event in the Forest is Arthur Conan Doyle's classic *The Hound of the Baskervilles* on **Friday 6th September**. Sherlock Holmes tackles the most baffling case of his career in this cheeky but chilling adaptation. Performed in the great outdoors by *Illyria*, prepare for an evening of mystery and things that go grrrr in the night! Tickets can be bought on our website; look for events.

Talking of hounds ... dogs are very welcome. Please remember to keep them on a short lead in the lake area and around livestock, especially near fenced areas where the sheep are grazing. Elsewhere, you can let your dog off but always keep it in sight and recall it when necessary. Professional dog walkers please note you need a licence to walk your dogs here.

Hannah Underwood

Email: Hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk



SWANS AT HATFIELD FOREST

A few weeks ago my dog Suki and I were walking along the path to the forest café, and we came across this lovely family scene. Three cygnets are nestled under the wings of one of the adults.



Swans can be very bad tempered, especially when there are babies to protect, and they particularly dislike dogs. People with little dogs picked them up and walked past, giving the swans a wide berth. I could not carry Suki as she is a labrador, so we walked back and reached the cafe 40 minutes later, as the alternative route is much longer. The brave Hatfield Forest staff were eventually able to persuade the swans to move away.

Ed



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

Our new season starts on **Thursday 5th September** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. Our guest speaker will be Ian Mercer and the topic is *The Ground Beneath our Feet* which is an intriguing title; I am sure this talk will be full of fascinating details and information. For those who are not members, we meet on the first Thursday of the month from September to May when we have a knowledgeable speaker on varied topics, often with a slide show or film. The talk is followed by hot drinks and biscuits; members then have the opportunity to ask the guest speaker questions about the talk. Full details of our speakers for the year and other information can be found on our website.

Membership is only £10 for the whole season, which really is superb value. We also hope to have our annual outing to an interesting venue. This year we went to Sutton Hoo and a report can be found in the August edition of *The Link*. Why not come along on 5th September and see if you enjoy the evening; you will be made very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Edward Taub

Email: taub8jr@icloud.com

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Peace, perfect Peace, is the Gift of Christ our Lord

I was reflecting on this hymn from our parish hymn book, *Celebration Hymnal for Everyone*, whilst praying for peace and cohesion for all who live in the United Kingdom. Please let us light peace candles and pray for peace in our country. I was particularly struck by the eternal truth about peace declared by St Paul. After his Damascus conversion, he became an ardent believer that peace was indeed a gift from God, as are the fruits of the holy spirit: *love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness (understanding of others), faithfulness (fidelity), gentleness and self-control* (Galatians 5:22-23). Paul became a deeply contented and peaceful person with everyone, which was not the case before his conversion.

As a Christian, Paul described himself as a free man who loves to associate himself with people of all categories and from all races: *I made myself all things to all people, in order to save, by all possible means, some of them* (I Corinthians 9: 19-23). This brings me to my main point which is an appeal to all of us to double our efforts to retreat into different places of prayer and worship and ask God for the gift of peace upon everyone who lives and works in our country. The shocking riots that have followed the unspeakable and horrific murder of children in Southport clearly show that some people are capable of committing the most evil crimes which lead to the lack of peace in our community. Sadly, there are so many conflicts and wars in the world today despite the massive human advancement in technology and other spheres of life. What is the solution to this catastrophic unhappiness and void of emptiness in our society today? Our human efforts, without God, will come to a dead end. The gospel of Jesus reveals him as the Prince of Peace, while Mary his mother, is revealed as the Queen of Peace. Therefore, as a matter of urgency, let us all flock into our places of prayer and worship to pray for peace in our country.

Fr Clement Orango
St Theresa's Catholic Church



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Parish Priest Fr Clement Orango
Tel: 814 349
Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

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

Masses
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Sunday 8.30am Mass
10.00am Mass
Wednesday 12.30pm
Baptisms By appointment

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



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Mobile: 07880 602717
Email: kewest@btinternet.com

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

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Holy Communion (2nd-4th Sundays)
9.30am



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Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Gill Hulme
Secretary Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579
Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for September

1st 10.30am Richard Lewney – Church Anniversary
8th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme – Harvest Communion
15th 10.30am Len Ward
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin
29th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch



QUAKERS

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

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

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

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

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



From St John's Registers

Baptism

7th July Zacherie Lepine

There were no weddings or funerals in July



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

On Thursday 1st August many of you might have heard the beautiful sound of the bells at St Mary's ringing. This was in celebration of Frank and Mollie Warboys' 70 years of marriage, their platinum wedding anniversary. Love and best wishes to the happy couple. Frank was a bell ringer both here and at many other churches. The ringing group were doing the rounds of all the churches where Frank once rang.

There have been many visitors in church and champing is still going well. It is hard to believe that we are in our 7th season now and it is still as popular as ever! The Church is open daily 11.00am-3.00 pm. Do pop in and please remember to sign the visitor book. We count footfall which helps with funding.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 10th September** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts. Coffee will be available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Tony Faber on *The Imperial Easter Eggs of Carl Fabergé: before the Revolution*.



Between 1885 and 1916, Carl Fabergé made 50 jewelled eggs as Easter presents from Russia's last two emperors to their wives to surprise, amuse or delight its recipient. This search for novelty also means the eggs provide a fabulously quirky illustrated history of the decline of the Romanovs. The lecture is illustrated with pictures of the family, their palaces and the eggs. Come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed.

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

Michael Fitch
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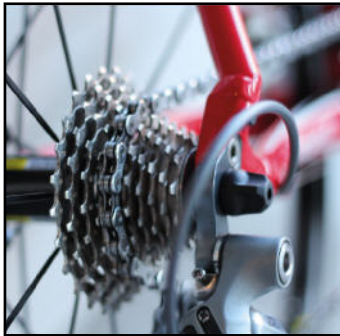


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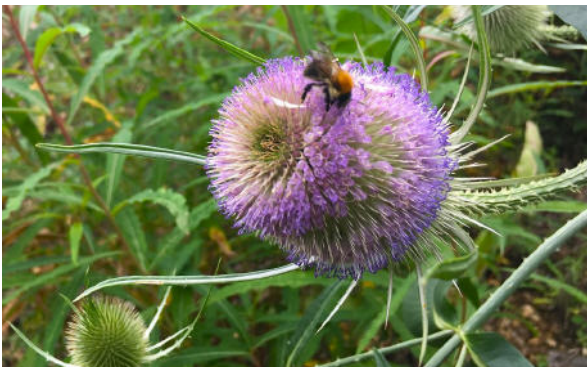
saffronscreen.com



NATURAL BEE KEEPING

Bees and Bugs through the Ages

Last month we learnt about keeping bees in skeps. In times past, the peasantry could not really do too much skep beekeeping as it is very labour intensive, so they often took part in bee-lining. This is a major part of my interest in honeybees; I have kept bees in all different types and styles of box beehives. However the research of bees is more my interest. Bee-lining is the ancient art of hunting bees. I hunt bees to find where they live and just observe them, but in the past, some people were permitted to cut down the tree with the bees in to take the honey. Provision for this was given in the Magna Carta, I believe. How does one bee-line? There are all manner of ways to go about this; a chap called Tom Seeley has written quite extensively about it. I do a varied system of sugar water feeding points from which I can then triangulate on the hive from the direction of flight of the returning bees. This requires a lot of time, patience and luck; hot summer days are always helpful.



Lastly just a quick update on what is happening with our bugs. Well I am glad to report we now seem to have loads of butterflies, dragonflies, bees and flies, although the numbers of wasps seem to be down for this time of the year. We do not really appreciate some wasps but they eat other bugs so are responsible for a huge amount of pest control; in the end they do a lot of good. Hope you will follow again next month.

Kevin Hancock

Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com

NEWPORT FLOWER CLUB

Friendship, Fun and Flowers

Our cream tea with demonstration in August was a huge success, members and visitors had a wonderful afternoon. Our next Club meeting will be on **Wednesday 18th September** with a demonstration by Barbara Collins; her title is *Shades of Autumn*. Barbara is an amazing demonstrator, so we know this will be an outstanding fun evening and her arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening. Please do come along and bring a friend with you.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (except January, August and December) at 7.00pm in Ugley Village Hall and visitors are always very welcome.



Patricia Sanz

Email: flowersanzp2020@gmail.com



RECYCLING



Foreign Coins Welcome

If you come back from your holiday abroad and have some loose coins, we can take them for recycling; just put them in the box outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. We also take old UK coins. 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



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our July meeting saw the welcome return of the very popular Brian Carline. The theme of his talk was *Our Street* and in the space of just 45 minutes, he gave us a brilliant, humorous and touching talk on a childhood spent in Salford during the 40s and 50s. His talk was beautifully illustrated with evocative photos of street scenes including a number of the parties held to celebrate the Queen's coronation in 1953. The views of the back-to-back terraced houses instantly reminded us of *Coronation Street*. Brian is a great fan of the soap and of the late great Hilda Ogden in particular; who could forget her *murial* (the name she gave to her mural) and *flying ducks*? Brian is a fully paid-up member of the *Hilda Ogden Appreciation Society* and had the pleasure of meeting Jean Alexander who portrayed her for many years.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18th September** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall when Gary Matthews will be talking about the history of Easton Lodge. Why not come along for the afternoon and learn about its fascinating history? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt

Tel: 815922



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Herts CM22 6AN

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email - bookings@thecockinnhenham.co.uk
www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk



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RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

September sees the start of our new programme with both indoor and outdoor activities that are well supported. There is a strong communal feel of enjoying birds and nature in companionship with like-minded people. We are run by volunteers, and everyone is welcome from beginner to expert. Our programme runs from September to the middle of July and has three main features:

Monthly Meetings

With a range of guest speakers, we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm, starting on **Tuesday 10th September** with guest speaker Fiona Hutchings who will be telling us about Essex Field Club and its history, activities and bird collection. Our meetings are held at Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA.

Visits to Reserves

These usually take place at weekends and feature a variety of outstanding reserves. Our programme aims to reflect the range of habitats and species.



Short, sociable, local bird walks

These are walks of three to four miles on weekdays and are local to Bishops Stortford. They feature a variety of habitats and end at a venue for refreshments. Please get in touch or just turn up at one of our many activities. Full details and more can be found on our website.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com



ELSENHAM FARMERS MARKET

The market is now a year old and going from strength to strength; at the July market we had 15 local sellers. You can buy fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, cakes, locally produced meat, oils and preserves, game, fruit juice, eggs, honey, savoury pastries, fish, chocolate and dog treats. The produce is always of the highest quality and it is wonderful to be able to support our local farmers by purchasing their wares. The next market is on **Saturday 28th September** 12.30pm-2.30pm.



Hertfordshire's Market Team

www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Join Team Grove Cottage and walk, stroll or stride through the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside on **Saturday 28th September** to raise much-needed funds for Grove Cottage. All monies raised will be match-funded by our charity partner, Helping Herts. The walk will start and finish at Tesco, Bishop's Park, CM23 4DD. There will be a 13 mile half marathon route and a shorter 3.4 mile route.

Registration is £10 per adult and £5 per child, which gets you a Grove Cottage T-shirt and refreshments during the walk. Please do call or message your friends and get a team together to walk for Grove Cottage and the other Helping Herts charities this September.

Alison Cameron

Email: fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Irritating Phrases

Do you remember how scathing we were about the phrase, *have a nice day*, when it first arrived from across the pond? Well, we have a home grown, equally inane one at the moment in *see you later*. I have lost count of the number of retail, bar, restaurant staff etc promising to *catch me later* or *see me later*. What is the point when they have not the slightest intention of doing so? What is wrong with simply saying goodbye? Another irritation is people saying (sometimes to complete strangers) *love you*, not once but several times. I have heard it on the radio during phone-ins when the caller or presenter will end the call by saying *love you*. It completely de-values the word love when everyone is telling everyone they meet, whether they know them or not, let alone feel any great affection for them, that they *love* them.

Lastly, the phrase that prompted this mini rant, which is heard and seen multiple times every day is, *please be aware*. The NHS is particularly fond of this phrase and use it as often as possible on all their signage and literature. The very fact that an announcement or explanation is being made, whether it is said or written is already making the listener or reader aware. **The words *please be aware* are not needed to make us aware of something we are already being made aware of!!!** (End of rant).

Tomatoes

Has this year been particularly bad for tomatoes? I only ask because I am finding it very difficult to buy any that have been grown in the UK and I am reluctant to buy foreign grown ones at this time of year. British ones always taste better. If anyone grows them at home and have too many, do take some off your hands.



Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

...with news of the publication of a report into HGV traffic on Grove Hill, our stance on the Manor Road flats, an update on biodiversity sites in the village and details of Stansted's first fireworks display in years!

HGV report: a blow for Grove Hill



Essex Highways has produced a report over summer that pours cold water on proposals to cut HGV traffic down Grove Hill. The county council has suggested directing HGVs around Stansted, using cameras to track traffic and fine trucks flouting the road's existing environmental restriction classification.

But the report, seen by the Parish Council in August, states traffic surveys and vehicle counts along Grove Hill in 2023 found "HGV use... is relatively low in comparison with similar roads." It also noted roads with an environmental weight restriction are expected to see HGVs make up 5% of traffic volumes. This is significant because for the county council to seek powers to use cameras to enforce restrictions on HGVs, it requires strong supporting evidence. The report doesn't help in this regard. HGVs were found to make up less than 2.5% of traffic on Grove Hill.

Other hurdles to tackling lorries cited by Essex include:

- A reluctance by central government to grant powers to councils to introduce moving-traffic enforcement restrictions
- The impracticality of implementation: multiple cameras would be needed, there'd be high admin fees stemming from legal challenges to fines, plus difficulties faced identifying offending drivers and their companies
- Widening the road along Grove Hill is also ruled out in the report "due to land constraints" and "the very narrow footway present".

The report suggests "the most appropriate/easiest/cheapest

solution...would be to remove existing residents parking bays" before recognising "residents would be unlikely to agree to their removal." As for hopes that lorries could be redirected around Stansted, Essex Highways is not keen on this either. Places such as Takeley suffer similarly to Stansted and would likely be resistant to coping with more HGV traffic for the village's sake.

You can read Essex Highways report in full on our website

▶ stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Manor Road Flats

In response to complaints about the state of 20 flats at Manor Road, and after Parish Councillors held a vote on the matter, Chair Maureen Caton invited the portfolio holder for housing at Uttlesford to attend a Full Council meeting in September to discuss the matter. This has been declined. SMPC has, however, received a reply from the interim director of property at the district council, which owns the flats. Mr Brian Burton reports over £700,000 of refurbishments are under way to fix problems connected to extensive water ingress at the properties. Anti-microbial treatments have been carried out already and leaky windows fixed, but so pervasive are the problems at Manor Road, we believe the money could be better spent rebuilding the flats from scratch. You can read Mr Burton's full report on the flats at stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Councillor Vacancies

We paused our recruitment over summer of two new faces to serve as Parish Councillors. But with recess behind us, SMPC are again welcoming enquiries from residents wanting to know how they can represent their community. If you are interested, have a read of our parish councillor application pack on our website. We'd also encourage you to attend a couple of meetings before putting your name forward to be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This will help you get a feel for the role. For those who contacted us earlier this year about being a Parish Councillor, we haven't forgotten you. Expect to hear from us shortly.

Biodiversity In Rude Health

In April two sites in the village were prepared and planted with a special mix of grasses and wildflowers as the Parish Council's project to promote local plant and animal biodiversity got underway. Since then it has been fantastic to witness the speed at which nature has worked her magic at the T-junction of Rainsford Road and Pennington Lane, and the land in front of the knight sign near to the B1383 roundabout.

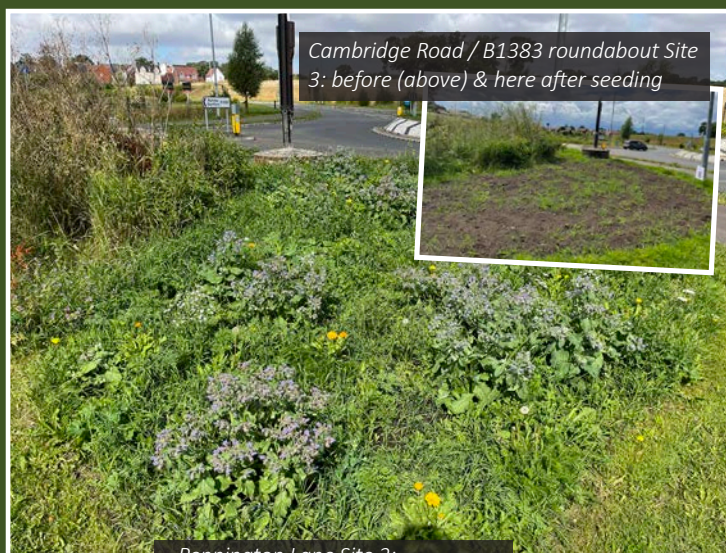
It is likely to take several growing cycles for the sites to reach their potential, but with the arrival of summer, shoots have already well and truly burst through the rotavated soil boding well for the project's future.

At Pennington Lane three types of low growth turf have been used. This is so the vegetation doesn't grow too tall to pose a hazard to drivers using the junction. Embedded into the grass are 17 types of plant. Among them are Cats Ear, Red Glover, Chamomile, Lemon Balm and Wood Sage.

At the B1383 roundabout, meanwhile, there's been an eruption of new fauna. Here a wildflower enriched turf has been used, made up of 85% flower and 15% grass seeds. In less than two months the 52 types of wildflowers sown have seen bees, butterflies and beetles make themselves at home among the likes of Birds-foot Trefoil, Fenugreek, Ragged Robin and Mountain Madworth.

It is hoped that over the next five years SMPC can expand the number of wildflower sites across the village. In turn this will provide sanctuary for plants, birds and insects struggling to adapt to climate change and pesticides, the combination of which is shrinking their habitats and threatening their existence. You can find out more about our policy on biodiversity by heading to our website.

▶ stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/documents/biodiversity-and-herbicide-policy/



Cambridge Road / B1383 roundabout Site 3: before (above) & here after seeding



Pennington Lane Site 2: before (left) and here after seeding



Pennington Lane Site 1: before (left) and after seeding

Anglia in Bloom 2024

The judges had warm words for Stansted and the villagers they met in July, when they dropped by to see our entry to their prestigious garden competition. Fingers crossed they count for something on September 6, the date set for AiB's award ceremony.



Fireworks Night - It's back on!

Delivering a fireworks night for residents has been on the Parish Council's to-do list ever since it fell off the village social calendar in 2019. Since then the problem has always been to find a viable site; big enough to host a fireworks show safely, with enough space for parking, and close to the village. We are delighted to report that thanks to the hard work of our Economic Development Group and the co-operation of the Burnt Mill Academy Trust, Stansted will be putting on a fireworks display on Saturday, November 9. The playing fields of Forest Hall School will host the event. Gates will open at 6.30pm and fireworks will start at 7.30pm. There will be vans selling burgers, hotdogs, hot drinks and a bar. Ticket prices are to be confirmed. SMPC has set aside up to £4,000 to help cover event costs. More details will follow in the next edition of The Link.

Local Plan & Walpole Meadows 2

The District Council is asking for your thoughts on the Regulation 19 version of their Local Plan, which maps out where new homes, business and infrastructure should go in Uttlesford from now until 2041. The public consultation ends at 5pm on Wednesday, October 3. The Reg 19 Local Plan has been shaped to reflect people's comments made in the last round of consultation in 2023. A hard copy of this updated version can be read in Mountfitchet Exchange library. Alternatively search for The new Local Plan at Uttlesford.gov.uk/reg-19-consultation for more information.

Meanwhile, we received an update before the summer recess from Bloor Homes on their Walpole Meadows 2 project. The 270 homes to come with this development are part of 390 homes proposed for Stansted in the draft Local Plan. Bloor say 40% of Walpole 2 will be affordable homes. The project should take two years to get through planning and start building and will deliver parkland and a site for community use. Speaking of which, the long-promised 14 allotment plots tied to the existing Walpole Meadows site look set to being handed over to the SMPC. The paperwork is close to being ready to sign - seven years after the project itself was completed!



The Regeneration Game

A lot can happen in 12 months. It was only last August, after all, we were proudly announcing in these pages that with the help of Forest Hall School, our Youth Council was two shy of a full contingent of 6 members. Now just a year on and we are back putting out the call for some new faces to promote the needs and interests of the young people in the community. Losing members is, alas, part and parcel of Youth Council life. Members cannot serve beyond the age of 18. So when councillors reach the last year of secondary school, they must vacate their position. This year it has meant by the end of summer, our Youth Council is back to a core of three.

The trio have been getting ahead of the recruitment curve, visiting Stansted's three primary schools to promote the work of the Youth Council and to inspire the next generation of councillors. One of their key messages has been the Youth

Council isn't all meetings and litter picks. It's also a great way to build up confidence, make friends, and there are trips to go on, too. Last year Youth Councillors visited Parliament while a future trip to Rungis is in the works. More importantly, as a councillor you will be a part of big decisions for young people in Stansted — from planning youth events to helping decide where money gets spent on playgrounds in the village for example. If all of this makes you excited to get involved in the Youth Council, contact SMPC.



▶ info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Geoffrey Sell

Uttlesford District Councillor for Stansted North

General Election

The political landscape has changed. It will have significant implications for all of us not least in local government. We can pride ourselves on a peaceful transition of power achieved through the ballot box. Not everything in the electoral garden is lovely. Turnout at 60% was the lowest since 2001. Many MPs including here in North West Essex were elected on less than 34% of the vote. The summer of discontent with riots in many of our cities reveals a worrying fracture in our society.

Uttlesford is responsible for the conduct of elections. It compiles the electoral register, arranges for nominations, issues postal votes, staffs the polling stations and carries out the count. It was unfortunate that some 2,644 postal votes in the Chelmsford area of the constituency were sent out late. The delay in postal votes arriving could mean some people were unable to vote due to the timing of their summer trips away. The Chief Executive said the delay was due to human error. An independent investigation is under way.

Local Plan

The District Council has moved towards the next step of a Local Plan. It decided to publish the Regulation 19 draft Local Plan. This will go out to public consultation on 8 August. Residents will be asked to comment on its soundness. Our existing Local Plan is from 2005 and is out of date. The Local Plan will determine where development is to take place up until 2041.

All four of Stansted's District Councillors voted against proceeding to the next stage of the Local Plan. The reality is that the District Council is trying to shut the stable door after the horse has bolted. Because of the failure of successive administrations to deliver an up-to-date Local Plan, Uttles-

ford has been subject to much speculative development. Over 8,500 houses have been granted planning permission since 2021.

My concerns over the Local Plan were that over a third of the proposed development under Regulation 19 will be in one parish, namely Takeley. This will help to contribute to an urban sprawl between Bishop's Stortford and Great Dunmow along the A120 corridor. I was also unhappy with the decision to reduce the proportion of affordable housing from 40% to 35%.

Undoubtedly, there is a housing crisis. An average of between 40,000 and 50,000 affordable homes a year have been built in the UK in the last two to three decades, roughly one-third of the 145,000 every year that is believed to be needed. There are 1.3m households on local authority waiting lists for social housing, the highest number since 2014 and up by 73,000 on last year, according to government figures.

Manor Road Flats

Many of these flats in Stansted are affected by mould, which has been unsuccessfully treated. I supported Cllr Ray Gooding's recent unsuccessful motion to the District Council, which urged the local authority to take action.

The flats have reached the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. A feasibility study needs to be carried out with a view to phased redevelopment. We can then offer accommodation fit for everyone rather than sub-standard homes, which are a threat to residents' health. Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council have agreed to my suggestion that Cllr Arthur Coote the portfolio holder for housing at the District Council should be asked to attend a meeting to discuss this issue. Cllr Coote's out-of-office email message suggests he will not be doing so.

Hospital Drivers

I represent the District Council on the Advisory Body of Uttlesford Community Travel. They are looking for volunteer hospital drivers. Fuel expenses are paid. If you are able to help, please contact them on 01371 87587 or email

▶ info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

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Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen
Communications Officer Dan Schlanker
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Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm
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cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk
Tom van de BILT | ☎ 07710426850
tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Sep 4 Full Council

Sep 11 Open Spaces

Sep 18 Finance & General Purposes

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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Ray GOODING
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Nick CHURCH
email: cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Ray GOODING
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi BADENOCH MP
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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: TouchPoint 9-10.30am **September 6**
Mountfitchet Exchange: 6-7pm - **September 18**
The Co-op: 3-4pm - **September 27**

LIBRARY

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

ADVICE SESSIONS

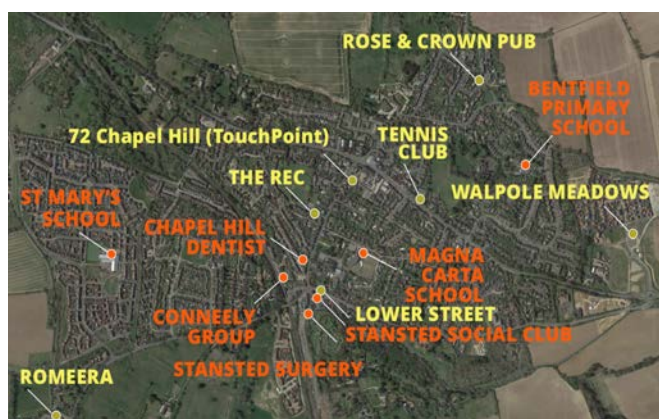
Uttlesford Citizen's Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 9.30am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during Parish Council reception hours via computer hook-up. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, September 12** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing issues, access to job training and offer support to overcome addiction.

TOUCHPOINT, STANSTED

The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill up your larder for free! **Foodshares** Stansted Social Club Wed 2.30-3.30pm, Thursdays Crafton Green 10am-noon, Saturdays 1-2pm; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 11am-5pm, Fridays 10am-12pm; **Free hot meals** on Tuesdays 4-6pm for pre-school and school age children; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 8.30am-10.30am. Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 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: **1st September, 15th September, and 29th September** (12.30pm to 4.30pm).



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 Defib to be added to the local network can be found at the Stansted Social Club on Lower Street.

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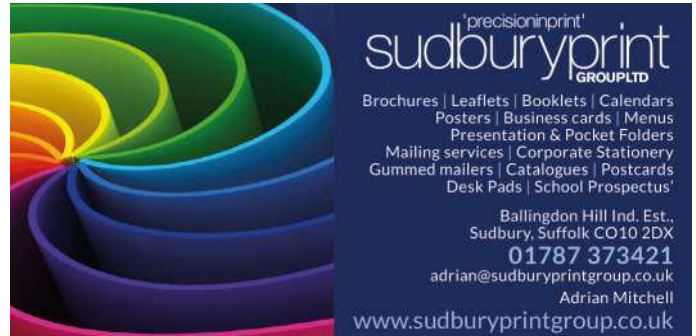
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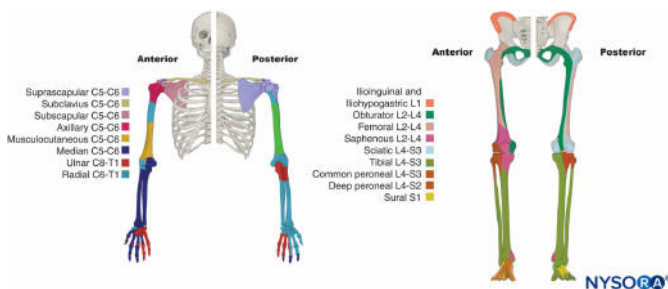


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BRAIN TRAINING

Nerves, Pain, Osteoporosis and Yoga

Nerves are a big deal. As part of rehabilitation, they need relaxing or unsticking. For good health, nerves need to be long and stretchy. If you get an unexpected nerve tingling in your hands or feet, it usually means a nerve has got a bit stuck, due to a dodgy shoulder or spinal position. Nerves make muscles contract and pass information to and from the brain. They also pull on the outer surface of the bone, called the periosteum. Following a fracture or sprain, their pull promotes bone healing. Nerves also keep a bone healthy by the same process. Long term, if they are not working very well, ie not pulling on the periosteum properly, this leads to a lower bone mineral density and osteoporosis.



Major Nerves of the Body

The job of some of the nerves running up to the spine is to sense changes in the bone, typically from movement stress or small environmental changes. Some of these nerves are nascent pain signalers. If activated, these nerves send pain signals to the brain. After a fracture, all the nerves surrounding the affected area need to be fully rehabilitated to avoid these pain nerves becoming hypersensitive, growing in number and leading to quite unnecessary long-term pain.

So if you are in a yoga class doing a seated forward fold and feel a tingle in your foot, nod your head quickly to stretch that nerve. Vary your foot position – toes up, down, in and out. This will stretch some of the leg nerves. Arm nerve stretches are more varied but do need doing. Stretching your nerves is an important part of keeping your bones strong.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07082 872919



www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Warm Homes Initiative

People often think more about their energy bills in winter when it is cold outside. Even though average annual energy bills fell by 7% on 1st July for those on standard price-capped tariffs, they remain about £400 higher than they were three years ago. From October the price cap will probably rise by 10% and then remain at roughly this level until it is due to change again in January 2025.

Now is a great time to think about ways to save energy; you will be kinder to the environment and have more money in your pocket too! Thanks to funding from Cadent, UK Power Network and the Energy Redress Scheme, we have an experienced team of specialists who can help you with this; they may even be able to visit you in your own home. Contact the team on 01799 618858 or by email: warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk. Our advice is always free, confidential and impartial, so please do contact us to find out more about:

- Grants for energy saving improvements such as home insulation or a new or replacement boiler; we can check if you are eligible and help you apply
- Switching suppliers – working out which energy tariff is the best one for you
- Energy saving around the home
- Helping you to join an oil club
- Making sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to
- Helping you with fuel debt if you have already fallen to arrears (in some cases we can apply to trusts and foundations to help pay these off)
- Access to emergency fuel payment.

We are at Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB

Tel: 01799 618840
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

CAPTION COMPETITION

Last month's caption competition demonstrated that our readers have a wacky sense of humour. So much so, that I found great difficulty in choosing a winning entry. Each time I went through your contributions I had a little chuckle and changed my mind about which was best. However, the Editor leant on me to stop prevaricating and make a decision, so I hereby declare that the winning entry for last month's competition is:



- Colin is saying "Get your lovely hassocks. Buy one get one free" – submitted by Kathy West

The two runners up in no particular order are:

- Colin is thinking "If I use these will it get me *Nearer my God to Thee?*" – submitted by Sarah Ludlow-Elston and ...
- Colin is saying 'They didn't tell us about this part of the job at theological college' – submitted by Gill Hulme

Please note that, at the time of judging, the submissions were anonymous, so any suspicion of vote rigging will be refuted. If you wish to submit an image as the basis for a future caption competition please go ahead. Perhaps you can bribe Colin to try juggling with his hassocks! Thanks to everyone who took part; we were very pleased to receive eight entries.

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AN EVENING WITH THE LADIES

Joe smiled to himself as he listened to his two elderly passengers. Gladys and Daphne, neighbours and friends for over 20 years, haven't stopped bickering since he picked them up at Broad End. 'You mark my words; there'll be trouble when bossy Barbara gets back,' shouts Daphne, being a little hard of hearing. 'We're in real danger of closing down, so we need to try something different to attract more members. Besides, the meeting will be over by the time Barbara gets back, and if the speaker attracts as many people as Venetia thinks, it'll be worth the risk.' 'What if it doesn't? We'll have broken every rule in the book for nothing. She'll be livid.' 'Too late to undo it all now Daph.' Joe could sense Gladys's exasperation at her friend's negativity.

'Slow down Joe, or my sponge will be nothing but a tin of crumbs by the time we get there,' Daphne yelled gripping the plastic container tightly to stop it sliding from her lap as Joe negotiated a sharp bend in the country lane. He eased his foot off the accelerator, catching a glimpse of Gladys winking at him in his rear-view mirror. He smiled at her but was beginning to wish he hadn't offered to give the ladies a lift. Joe's a postman and, unfortunately, he's also a sucker for Gladys's ginger cake. It was while delivering some post to Gladys and being treated to a large slice of said cake, that he was regaled with the latest woes of the nearby Broad Bottom Women's Institute.

'The committee is down to four – well five if you count young Venetia, our latest recruit. She's always jetting off somewhere so hardly ever attends, but when she does come to a meeting, Venetia has some really good ideas. Her latest one was to invite a new, unknown speaker to our next meeting. According to her, he's charismatic, inspirational and quirky. We agreed to give him a try, but Venetia refuses to tell us what his talk is about.' 'Isn't that a bit risky?' Joe asked, chasing the last crumbs of cake around his plate. 'Yes. I suppose so. But desperate times call for desperate measures.' Gladys went on to tell the young postie about how Venetia had organised it all, got her granddaughter to produce posters and advertise the talk on social media, before she went off on another holiday. She showed him the poster. 'Oh. I've seen these. They're all over the place. I had no idea it was a WI thing.'

Gladys sighed. 'Venetia decided not to mention it. She said it might put young people off coming. It's probably against the WI rules to do that. Our president, Barbara is a real stickler for going by the book. She'll go mad when she finds out.' A strident ringtone interrupted. While Gladys got up to answer her phone Joe studied the poster. On a yellow background the bold black text read:

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT W.A.S.P.? IT'S THE LATEST THING. COME TO BROAD BOTTOM VILLAGE HALL WEDNESDAY 24TH MAY AT 7.30PM TO HEAR ALL ABOUT IT. YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.

Joe scratched his head. The only thing he could think of with the initials W.A.S.P was white Anglo Saxon something or other, and he didn't think that would make a very interesting talk. 'Well, now we're in a pickle,' said Gladys as she put down the phone. 'Daphne's son-in-law usually gives us

both a lift to WI on his way to play darts at the Social Club, but he's gone and broken his ankle so can't drive.' 'Oh right. Taxi?' Joe suggested. 'Well, if it was up to me I'd book one but Daphne refuses. Claims she can't afford it. We're supplying the refreshments,' she replies indicating the six tins stacked neatly on the sideboard. 'What are we going to do?' Joe looked at her worried expression and felt obliged to help with transport. After all he'd been scoffing her delicious cakes ever since he started delivering to Broad End and felt he owed Gladys a favour or two. 'So have you found out what this talk is about yet?' He asked his passengers. 'No,' replied Gladys. 'Still a mystery.'

'Better not be about creepy crawlies, or political, or I for one will walk out,' declared Daphne adding, 'and I'll take me sponge home with me.' Joe laughed to himself, wondering how the lady planned to get back to Broad End if she wouldn't pay for a taxi. He'd been invited to attend the talk and had also offered to help clear up afterwards. He just hoped he wasn't going to be the only male there. With a sigh of relief, the postie pulled into the small car park behind Broad Bottom's village hall. He could feel a headache coming on, which didn't bode well for an evening spent in the midst of a roomful of chattering women.

'Not exactly queueing up to come in are they,' Daphne sniffed as she hauled herself out of the car with some difficulty. 'Early days yet Daph. Give them a chance,' replied Gladys with a sigh. 'So what did you think of the talk ladies?' asked Joe on the return journey. Ignoring Daphne's muttering about the speaker needing a haircut, Gladys proclaimed the whole evening to have been a great success. 'It's a long time since I've seen so many at a WI meeting, and nobody guessed that W.A.S.P. stood for *weeds are special plants*. Caused quite a lively discussion,' she added laughing. 'But how many prospective new members signed up at the end of the day?' asked Daphne. 'If the number of people talking to Venetia is anything to go by - good of her to rush to the meeting straight from the airport – I'd guess quite a few', said Gladys.

Joe thinks he might have to give Gladys's cake a miss for the time being to avoid feeling obliged to repeat today's good deed. Attending one WI meeting is more than enough for any man.

Yvonne Ayres
u3a Writing Group

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be in late summer, on **Tuesday 3rd September** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street where we will be discussing last month's book choice *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. The novel is about newlyweds Roy, a young executive, and Celestial, an artist on the brink of an exciting career. Just as they are settling into the routine of their life together, they are torn apart by circumstances neither could have imagined, when Roy is arrested and imprisoned for a crime Celestial knows he did not commit. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



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

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

u3asites.org.uk/stansted

In a year marked by unpredictable weather, the first u3a Festival at the University of York, which I and another Stansted u3a member attended, was blessed with sunshine, providing the perfect backdrop for a variety of activities.

Held over three days in July, the festival featured more than 80 events, showcasing the best of the u3a community. Organised and enjoyed by nearly 1,000 members, the festival highlighted the vibrant spirit and enthusiasm of u3a participants. With the success of this inaugural event, hopes are high for it to become a regular fixture in the u3a calendar.



The Garden Group enjoyed another beautiful day with a visit to the garden of Thorley u3a members Anne and David Willett who live in Little Hadham. Known for its exquisite design and planting by Anne, the garden features charming borders, a tranquil water feature, and strategically placed focal points that guide visitors through the garden and into a small, well-tended woodland area. In keeping with tradition, Anne and David hosted the group with tea, coffee, and homemade cake on the lawn, adding a delightful social element to the garden tour.

We are looking forward to welcoming Jason Middleton as the speaker for the General Meeting on **Thursday 19th September**. A professional gemmologist, Jason will share his passion for jewellery, tracing its role from ancient civilisations to modern times. Everyone will have the opportunity to handle items and purchase a selection if desired.

New members are always welcome to explore any class before committing. For more information about the variety of activities available, visit our website or call 07874 385541. As the u3a continues to grow and thrive, these events underscore our dedication to lifelong learning and social engagement, making it a cherished part of many members' lives.

Susan Sedgebeer
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

STANSTED u3a SINGERS

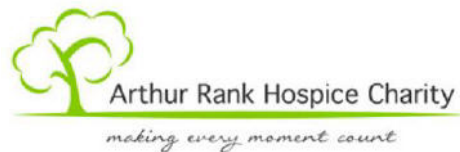
Our annual concert is on **Saturday 5th October** at 3.00pm in St John's Church and everyone is welcome. Maybe you are a new u3a member who loves to sing? We invite you to come to our concert and hear what we do; you will find we sing a wide range of numbers. We are always glad to welcome new members. Tickets priced £10 are available on the door or at the u3a monthly meeting on **Thursday 19th September** at 1.30pm in St John's Hall. The ticket cost includes light refreshments, home-made cakes, wine or a soft drink. There will be posters around the village showing contact telephone numbers if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Jenny Jordan

NOISY PLANES COMPLAINTS

Were you woken by the very loud planes that started about 5.00am on Monday 12th August, one of the hottest days of the year? If so, it is very easy to make a complaint to the *Stansted Airport Noise Line*, and the more people that do this the better, as all Airport Authorities are required to publish the number of complaints they receive. You can do it at any time, so it is not too late now. Call 0800 243 788, email: stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com or complete an online form at www.stanstedairportwatch.com. They aim to respond to written complaints within eight days.

Ed



www.arhc.org.uk

Your VIP invite to Cambridge Colleges

The Bridge of Sighs and Darwin Garden are just a couple of sights to be seen on this year's *Bridge the Gap Charity Walk*, raising funds for people supported by Arthur Rank Hospice and Romsey Mill. Taking place on **Sunday 15th September** this family-friendly walk is one not to be missed, with six Cambridge Colleges on route. Please see our website or tel 01223 675888 to sign up.



Would you like to run in the 2025 TTP Cambridge Half Marathon for Charity?

This year over 50 TeamArthur runners joined 13,000 runners in the TTP Cambridge Half Marathon, and we are aiming for more for next year's race on **Sunday 9th March 2025**.

They have 60 places which are expected to fill quickly, so please do get in touch if you are interested. We ask you to commit to raise £350 and the registration fee is £24. Alternatively, if you already have your own place in the event and would like to support us, please see our website.

Virginia Goode
Communications Officer

We are delighted to announce that work to convert the tennis court floodlights from metal halide to light emitting diode (LED) has now been completed. The installation of the LED lamps will substantially reduce our carbon footprint and running costs, improve playing experience and ensure the Club continues to provide excellent value to our members. This was a significant project for the Club, costing a total of £19,200. Fortunately, the majority of the funds were awarded to us by Uttlesford District Council as part of their *Zero Carbon Communities Grant*, the funds for which were provided by the UK Government's *UK Shared Prosperity Fund*.

Eight men and eight women recently played in The President's Cup. The winners were the Club's President Martyn Taplin and his partner Chris Bailey who defeated Rick Lim and Daphne Lunnon 6-3. Consolation winners were Debbie Lane and Scott Cooper.



L to R Martyn Taplin, Chris Bailey, Rick Lim and Daphne Lunnon

Beginner tennis sessions for children aged 4-7 will continue from 8.00am-9.00am on Sundays. Group coached adult sessions for beginner and intermediate players are available on Sundays 9.00am-10.00am. These are perfect for anyone wishing to get back into tennis if they have not played in a while, or to brush up on some basic tennis skills. If you or your child wish to join either of these sessions please email: danw.tennis@gmail.com.

Debbie Lane

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The opening fixture of the new season was not a happy one for the first team, who suffered a heavy defeat. The team responded with well-earned points being picked up on tough away fixtures. However, the big disappointment was going

out of the FA Cup at the first hurdle. The score was 0-0 and a replay saw us lose 1-2; a huge disappointment.

There should be exciting home games during September, with League and Vase fixtures for the first team. The U18s kick off their first campaign in the Thurlow Nunn Youth League and are hoping to carry on their impressive pre-season where they were unbeaten, scoring many goals. The over 45s and our youth teams will be playing on Sunday mornings, either at Hargrave Park or at Good Easter.

Our sad news is the passing of Mick Phillips; he was a coach and manager as well as a respected fan in later years. Back in March we were able to arrange for Mick to receive a long service award from the FA for his services to football. He was so looking forward to the new season; he will be sorely missed.

Fixtures at Hargrave Park in September:

12 th	Cambridge City	U18s	7.45pm
14 th	FC Clacton	League	3.00pm
21 st	Burnham Ramblers	FA Vase	3.00pm
26 th	St Neots Town	U18s	7.45pm



Tom Williams
Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

The A team came second in the North West Essex Bowling Association (NWEBA) league B division which should mean that we get promoted up to the A division. The players did very well to secure promotion last year and again this year. Unfortunately the B team will be relegated to the C division but this is an excellent chance for the team to regroup and come back fighting to secure promotion in 2025. The ladies' section continues to thrive; they are a good solid bunch with great team spirit and drive to do well. For a small club we are proud to boast such a credit to bowling. Keep it going ladies, the sky is your oyster for 2025.

We are always pleased to see new potential players come along to the Club; you will always 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. Check out our website to see when the teams are playing at home. You do not have to be a member to come along and watch a game, and there are always people around who will help to explain what is going on. If you fancy being part of a friendly club which offers a subsidised bar, lots of banter and other activities for you to get involved in, then come along on a Friday evening; one of the players will show you around. Alternatively drop me an email and I will answer your questions and get you started; or you could look on our website for further information. We are also on Facebook: Stansted Bowling Club.

Peter Beattie

Hon Secretary

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com



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music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/ 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734		
Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		

Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like your organisation to be added please let us know. Contact details are on page 1.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk 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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