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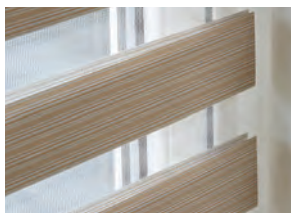
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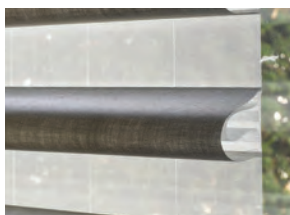
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Front Cover

Haze of Summer

by Jaden Atkins-Linnell

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 AUGUST ISSUE

Please email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk or post to 7 Blythwood Gardens CM24 8HG by noon on **9th July**.
Word attachment or typed into an email, max 300 words; landscape photographs **min 250KB** as a separate jpg.
Articles may subject to editing

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EDITORIAL



The Link team are delighted to welcome a new contributor to our magazine, a young photographer, Jaden Atkins-Linnell, who took our front cover picture for this month. She has just finished her GCSE exams at Forest Hall School and will continue with Photography, as well as Media Studies and Graphic Design for A levels which she hopes to do at Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge. The photograph was taken in the middle of March, before sunset, in fields near the Parsonage Lane business park. Jaden has been interested in photography for many years and she loves capturing stories and understanding how you can seek so many ideas and feelings in a single frame. Thanks so much to Jaden for sending us this unusual and lovely front cover photograph.

We have many beautiful pictures inside the magazine as well, including two showing enchanting butterflies. We may dislike battling through brambles on walks, but these insects obviously thrive on their nectar. One of the most moving of our pictures this month is on page 15, from St Clare Hospice; it shows an elderly lady receiving an unusual visitor by her bedside in the Hospice. It brought tears to my eyes! Young people will enjoy the Reading Challenge at Stansted Library; read about this on page 13. On the same page you will see how busy the Saffron Walden Museum staff have been, putting together a wonderful celebration of Sir David Attenborough's centenary year. One of our local residents makes Sir David seem a youngster; Lizbeth Scales recently celebrated her 105th birthday. You can read about her on the opposite page. Enjoy the summer, one and all.

Ed



CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid soup lunch

This year's lunch raised £475 for Christian Aid. The seven soups, all home-made by church members, were so delicious that nearly everyone came back for seconds or even thirds.



As well as responding to disasters around the world, Christian Aid's main way of providing help to the poorest people is by supporting local organisations. One such is *Beacon of Hope*, which trains people living in the heart of Nairobi to grow vegetables. With homes made of steel sheets and concrete blocks packed closely together, farming would seem to be impossible. However Kenyan women are being taught to grow crops vertically using hydroponic and other methods. With most people earning less than one dollar a day, having fresh vegetables is a god-send. Any surplus is sold at market to provide much-needed income. So our Christian Aid lunch connects us to the women of Nairobi. Additional donations of £75 were received during Christian Aid Week, making this year's total £550. Your support, generosity and prayers do make a difference. Thank you to all who contributed.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

You know that feeling when you slow down to exchange pleasantries with a passer-by and the chat turns out to be a really interesting conversation, which lifts your mood and makes you feel enlivened? Through the u3a you can access that feeling by joining groups and attending varied activities. Local people have decided they want access to some fun and to expand their horizons. Maybe a weekly dose of line-dancing might set you up, discussing a book you have all read, or brushing up on your school French? Some groups meet once a month, others weekly; you can organise your time to suit your circumstances.

After the recent Saturday seminar with Dr Hugh Doherty, many felt the pleasant shock that comes with hearing a surprising depth of knowledge imparted with real joy. Hugh is a master of his material, King Stephen and The Anarchy in 1138, and he achieved the elusive goal of covering, for most, a sketchily known period with nuance, complexity and clarity, all resting on a firm foundation of impeccable scholarship. More Saturday Seminars are on the way; these, and all the group classes, can be found on our website.

In the Poetry for Pleasure group, Vicky led a discussion on the American poet Billy Collins. There was no doubt about his popularity as everyone felt that satisfying sensation of *when you put it like that, I completely get it*. Some of the best phrasings are not at all opaque but use everyday images in a new way. For example, seeing the earth as an *orange tangerine*, or the sensation of falling asleep and beginning to dream as *drifting into a story that will never be written*. These reports on a mere two groups do not do justice to the 30+ on offer. Check the website or call 07874 385541.

Julia Cook



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Please come and join us on **Friday mornings, including school holidays, from 9.15am-11.30am** in the Free Church Hall. The Fun Place is friendly and informal, and imaginative play is encouraged. Dressing-up clothes are popular along with the doll's house and Peppa Pig toys. Everyone is welcome and parents, grandparents, children and all ages drop in to this popular meeting place. Adults relax and chat with a coffee or tea and the children enjoy playing with the wide selection of toys and books. The children have plenty of space to run around and enthusiastically join in the sing-a-long at 10.30am.

Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and hot drinks and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards

Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

STANSTED u3a SINGERS



Our photo below shows the u3a Singers following their recent concert in St Theresa's Parish Centre. Led by our musical director Isobel Bradshaw (front row, fourth from left) the choir performed many songs familiar to their audience and were accompanied during one song by Carole Crosby on recorder. The evening was organised jointly with St Theresa's Church, whose members supplied refreshments in the interval and helped with the sale of concert tickets as well as raffle tickets.



The singers had chosen East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) to benefit from the evening's profits, and a representative of the charity gave a short talk on their aims and achievements. A grand total of £872 was donated to EACH, thanks to a very generous Stansted audience!

Jenny Jordan

Email: jennyjordan@talktalk.net

LISBETH SCALES IS 105 YEARS OLD

In May, our beloved Lisbeth Scales, a Broome End resident, celebrated her remarkable 105th birthday; and what a heartfelt celebration it was. Students from Northgate Primary School and Magna Carta Primary School visited Lisbeth to sing *Happy Birthday*.



Adding to the special day was a visit from Susannah Dutton, the Sheriff of Essex, who came to present Lisbeth with a thoughtful gift and extend her best wishes. Susannah laughed when Lisbeth said: *Oh I like your hat*. Lisbeth's family joined her throughout the day. A huge thank you to Essex Light Up Your Night and The Card Factory in Bishop's Stortford for their kind donations. When we asked Lisbeth the secret to her longevity she simply smiled and said *I am not that old*.

Cathy Knowles

Activities Co-ordinator

Broome End Care Home

Tel: 816455

Email: activities_be@curaa.co.uk



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Summer is here at last and as usual the weather is unpredictable, but whatever it is like outside, there is always a warm welcome for you at *The Place on the Hill*. We invite you to join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. We have lovely comfy seats and offer a safe and friendly environment for adults. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** and everyone is welcome. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is limited parking behind the church. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



RSPB

group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

With our programme drawing to a close before our annual break in August we have two events this month. On **Thursday 2nd July** at 6.00pm we are meeting outside The Cock, High Street, Hatfield Broad Oak CM22 7HF for an evening birding walk. This is about four miles starting from the centre of Hatfield Broad Oak and follows a loop to the west of the village through fields and trees and includes Pincey Brook. The walk will be followed by refreshments at a local pub.



Our programme ends with our meeting on **Tuesday 14th July** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA. We are delighted to welcome back to Stortford the much-missed Jono Forgham. For 40 years Jono has observed, preserved and documented the nature around Stortford. Many of you will have followed his wanderings in the Independent until his recent relocation to Norfolk. For this most welcome visit Jono will be presenting his memories of 40 Years of Bishop's Stortford Nature. Jono is an incredibly knowledgeable and entertaining speaker who will provide us with a great night to finish our programme. For full details of our activities, please see our website or contact me.

Peter Allen
Tel: 07876 295456
Email: peter2349@sky.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on Tuesday 7th July at 8.00pm in The Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson. This semi-autobiographical coming-of-age novel follows the life of Jeanette who, as a young girl, is raised in an extremely religious household. Likening her life to eating only oranges, Jeanette finds there are more ways to live, love, and find truth beyond the single, strict doctrine offered. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us whether you have read the book or not, as we find plenty of other things to discuss! A warm welcome awaits.



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

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Unfortunately, our speaker was unable to come to us for our May meeting, but at very short notice Tony Wellings, who is well known for his talks about the village and its history, did not disappoint with his talk on *Old Views of Stansted* and accompanying slide show. Many areas of Stansted were no longer recognisable, especially Forest Hall Park; however it was interesting to see many of the old buildings that still stand in their original state. The old fire station featured both before and after the new fire engine was brought in.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 9th July** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint, when our speaker will be Ian Puddick who will tell us *How not to get ripped off*. The competition is a pretty jug. We welcome visitors and new members, so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



www.tasbs.org.uk

Continuing our 50th Anniversary Year of the Arts Society Bishop's Stortford, our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14th July** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA) with coffee available from 10.00am.



Our speaker is Dan Evans on *Cabbages, Carrots and Lamb, Spanish Still Life from 1600 to 1812*. In this lecture we will see a cabbage which has been painted with such accuracy that the painted version is more alluring than the vegetable itself. Goya's painting of a pile of fish is a political commentary on the disasters of war. They have been abandoned on a beach in the

middle of the night and have been left to rot in the sand as evidence of reckless waste at time of famine. Through this and other paintings by Velazquez, Zurbarán, and Melendez we will explore stunning key themes that can be discerned from arrangements of simple food stuffs such as religious fervour and symbolism.

Come and be entertained, amazed and enlightened. Visitors are very welcome for which we invite a donation of £7, cheque or cash please. If coming by car please register the car number at SMA reception. Our membership secretary, Sue Chapman, can be contacted by tel: 508542 or email: info@tasbs.org.uk. Please see our website for further information. Our Facebook page is Arts Society Bishop's Stortford.

Michael Fitch



Freedom

Uplifting choral music on the theme of independence and what it is to feel truly free

**3 pm Sat 4th July
St John's Church**

*Tickets: Adults £10, children and students free on the door or from
www.theharmonaireschoir.com*

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 7th Jul

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit

by Jeanette Winterson

This novel follows the life of Jeanette who is raised in an extremely religious household.

Likening her life to eating only oranges, Jeanette finds there are more ways to live, love, and find truth

All Welcome Tel 813056



Green Waste Skip Dates

Sundays 1 - 5 pm

**5th & 19th Jul
2nd, 16th & 30th Aug
Lower Street Car Park**

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

4	Sat	Harmonaires Concert	St John's Church 3pm
7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8pm
9	Tue	Link copy due in today	before noon
3	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	Kings Arms 7 - 9am
5	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30pm
5 & 19	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Pak 1 - 5pm
14	Tue	The Arts Society BS	Southmill Arts 10.40am
		RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Cntr 7.30pm
9	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30pm
12	Sun	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5pm
15	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2pm
		Newport Flower Club	Ugley Village Hall 7 for 7.30pm
18	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		Community Choir Concert	Elsenham Village Hall 2.30pm



Stansted Evening W I

7.30 pm Thu 9th Jul

Touchpoint

How not to get ripped off

by Ian Puddick

Visitors Welcome Entry £3



11 am - 5 pm Sun 12th Jul

(last entry 4.00 pm)

**Demonstration by Fens Falconry
Music by Harlow Concert Band
Pond Dipping and Children's crafts**

Tickets £7.50 on gate, £6 advance
Children free
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10 am - noon

Sat 18th Jul

Ugley Village Hall

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Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb ~ Houseplants
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam
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ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

2.30 pm Sat 18th Jul

Elsenham Village Hall

Summer Choral Extravaganza

Songs Old and New

Everyone Welcome ~ Entry **free**

Donations for local charity welcome

Refreshments ~ Free parking

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 14th Jul

South Mill Arts

Dan Evans

**Cabbages, Carrots and Lamb
Spanish Still Life from 1600 to 1812**

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

NEWPORT FLOWER CLUB

7 for 7.30 pm Wed 15th Jul

Ugley Village Hall

Forget Me Not

Demonstrator Debbie Bull

Visitors are always very welcome

Small charge for entry

Plenty of free parking



Ugley W I

2 pm Wed 15th Jul

Ugley Village Hall

Card Making

led by two committee members

Visitors Welcome

Plenty of free parking



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 14th Jul

Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA

Jono Forgham

**My memories of 40 Years of
Bishop's Stortford Nature**

Visitors welcome, entry £5

Tel: Peter 07876 295456

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

Freedom

Join the highly regarded Harmonaires Choir for their summer choral concert on **Saturday 4th July** at 3.00pm in St John's Church. *Freedom* brings together an eclectic mix of uplifting choral music on the theme of independence and what it is to truly feel free. Expect music by Kate Bush and Nina Simone, alongside fantastic contemporary choral works by Sarah Quartel, arrangements by Voces8, with extracts from the musicals of *Les Misérables* and *Hamilton*. Tickets: adults £10, children and students free, available online and on the door.



The Harmonaires Choir, formed 11 years ago by Musical Director Josie Cowley, is a tight-knit ensemble renowned for its exceptional performances and dedication to community enrichment. Based locally, this group of talented vocalists has garnered acclaim for their ability to capture hearts with their harmonious renditions of classic and contemporary choral pieces, singing in cathedrals as well as performing fundraising concerts locally. For more information about the choir please see our website.

Liz Jennings



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

It is not too late to take advantage of our early-payment discount of £5, available until 31st July when you buy a season ticket for our 2026-27 season of concerts which begin in October. Full details are in our annual newsletter which has gone out to our regular subscribers either by post or by email. If you are not already on our mailing list, just email me with your address, email and phone number and we will do the rest.

Richard Allaway
Tel: 814118

Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk

Check your bills - could you save money?

Many people pay more than they need to for everyday services. A quick review could help you save. Small changes can save money each month.

Ask yourself:

- Do you still use everything you are paying for?
- Are you on the best deal available?
- Could a simpler option work just as well?

Typical costs to keep in mind:

Broadband (light use, emails, browsing, occasional video calls). You might expect to pay around £20-£30 per month. If you are paying much more, it may be worth reviewing your package.

TV services

With a TV licence, you can access Freeview at no extra cost. Consider using one streaming service at a time and switching as needed. Bundles can offer value, but only if you use everything included.

Mobile phones

SIM only deals can be as low as £5-£15 per month. Check if you are still paying for a handset which you have already paid off.

Energy bills

Prices vary, but it is worth checking that you are on the best tariff available and not overpaying.

Need help?

We are here if you need free, confidential guidance on money, benefits, housing or work issues. To speak to one of our friendly advisers, please contact us.

Leah Clohesy
Office Manager
Tel: 01799 618840
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

GUESS THE OBJECT 6

None of the suggestions received so far have identified these objects correctly, so we are giving our readers another opportunity. Do you know they are called and what they were used for?



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

THE ROSE AND CROWN COMMUNITY HUB

The Rose and Crown pub is set to support more members of its local community with free meals and cooking classes for young people so they can acquire new skills. Run by publican Stacy Whiffen, the historic village pub has long been a life-line for local people, providing a warm and welcoming space for everyone. It has a cosy bar with wood-burning stove and a newly designed garden with undercover seating, play area, and heated outdoor areas.

Stacy has made it her mission to support the local community and those in need. For a long time, the pub has held charity fundraising events and works closely with Touchpoint, providing free meal vouchers to people facing financial hardship.



At the centre of this mission is a powerful partnership between Stacy and her daughter, Head Chef Abigail Cowley. She leads a team of seven young adults, who are learning essential cooking, food preparation, and hygiene skills.

With expert guidance and access to a grant from *Pub is The Hub*, a not-for-profit organisation offering independent specialist advice to publicans on services diversification which is supported by the Hospitality Support Fund of the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the Rose and Crown will be able to diversify and remain a sustainable community asset.

Kate Dearden, Minister for Employment Rights and Consumer Protection said that rural pubs are vital to their communities, by creating jobs or providing residents of all ages with a place to come together, socialise, and now, learn to cook. From April every pub is receiving a 15% reduction on its business rates on top of the £4.3bn support package announced in the Budget.

Michelle Perrett
Media Advisor
Pub is The Hub

Email: michelleperrett@pubisthehub.org.uk



RANDOM JOTTINGS

Heartfelt thanks

Back in the day barely a month went by without some sort of comment about dog poo in The Link. Complaints were made, sometimes in the form of a poem, and campaigns were launched to address the issue. The problem got so bad that walking the pavements and footpaths of the village became a combination of playing bingo and taking part in a slalom; keeping eyes down and constantly changing course to avoid treading in something unsavoury.

At one point even free dog poo bags were offered to encourage dog owners to clear up after their pets. However this only caused another eyesore; hedgerows adorned with dangling, bulging poo bags.



On a recent early morning walk around Stansted, I was amazed at how many dogs I came across. Everyone seems to have two or three dogs each these days. Despite this increase in the canine population, I only spotted one discarded (filled) poo bag and no mess at all on any of the footpaths or pavements I walked.

I expect there's still a certain amount of dog fouling happening, but there has obviously been a vast improvement in the amount of deposits left over the years. So, thank you dog walkers for making the effort to keep Stansted's paths clean. It's now a pleasure to walk around the village with eyes up and able to appreciate the scenery.

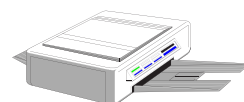
To print - or not to print

Listening to a well-known radio presenter, much younger than me, having a mini rant about his printer often refusing to print for no apparent reason, struck a sympathetic chord. I'm currently having a battle with mine which, after years of happily printing on used paper has suddenly decided not to.

Each time I attempt it the machine pauses and announces *load paper*. I carefully re-load the tray making sure the pile of used sheets is aligned correctly, press go and after a few seconds of whirring and consideration the printer pauses and up comes the 'load paper' message again. I have tried cancelling the printing and trying again, switching the thing off and restarting, creeping up on it when it's not looking, even shouting and threatening to throw it out the window. All to no avail.

However, if I load the wretched thing with fresh, virgin paper it prints straight away with no hesitation. Why? I thought it must be me being stupid or an age thing but hearing about the presenter's problems with his printer made me feel so much better. My problem could still be caused by operator error, but at least it's not necessarily my age.

Loki





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BEES AND BUGS

Nectar flows declined as plants struggled with the hot dry spell in May. Rain should help replenish moisture in the soil and give flowering plants a much-needed boost. If your hive has not yet swarmed, please do not worry. We are only just past mid-summer, and there is still plenty of time for colonies to reproduce if conditions are right. Over the coming weeks, keep an eye on hive activity. Warm afternoons following rain often produce a noticeable increase in foraging, and if local nectar sources improve, colonies can become very active very quickly.

The priority for bees is raising brood and building up the colony. The nectar they collect feeds developing larvae and keeps the colony supplied during periods of poor weather. This is why the ECO-BEEHIVE Honey Box system works so well. The bees treat the box's space as part of the natural mantle around the brood nest and store surplus nectar there. When honey is harvested from this area, it has little impact on the colony's ability to survive the winter because we are working with the bees' natural rhythms rather than against them.

Research update – your help is needed

We are working on a major UK-wide research project in collaboration with the University of Sussex. The aim is to build the first comprehensive picture of viable wild honeybee colony density across different habitats and regions of the UK, which will help develop a practical tool that can estimate how many honeybee colonies a particular landscape can sustainably support. If you have an ECO-BEEHIVE, and would like to take part, please email me the following information:

1. When was your ECO-BEEHIVE installed?
2. Approximately when did bees first occupy the hive?
3. What is your postcode?
4. Has your colony ever died out and then later become naturally repopulated?

Thank you for being part of the project; you are helping to better understand Britain's most fascinating and important pollinators.

Kevin Hancock
Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com



www.stanstedbusinessforum.com

Our June talk was by Daniel Burford from the Stansted Airport Community team discussing the *Stansted Transformation Programme*. This is specifically looking at how the terminal will be altered and the complexities of delivering a large construction project in a 24/7 airport operation. For more information or to book to attend one of our popular breakfast networking meetings, please see our website or contact our secretary Steve Greenall, email: hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com. The next meeting is on **Friday 3rd July 7.00am-9.00am** at the Kings Arms.



Iris Evans
Treasurer



www.thetouchpoint.org

Volunteers' Week in the garden: growing together

In the June Link we described how our garden has been transformed from a hopeful patch of green into one of the most uplifting corners of our community. Thanks to our small but mighty gardening volunteer team, the space continues to flourish with colour, character and the occasional plant that appears without explanation but is welcomed anyway.

We now have over 200 TouchPoint volunteers. The garden team is a compact group of green-fingered champions who somehow make it look as if a full horticultural workforce has been through with a plan and a purpose. To celebrate Volunteers' Week, we organised two free thank-you sessions where volunteers could create their own planted baskets to take home.

The first session took place outdoors, with people choosing from a cheerful mix of flowers and foliage. There was plenty of friendly chatter, comparisons of colour combinations, and guidance from the gardening team, including favourites such as: *Yes, that one prefers sunshine*, *That is upside down*, and *If it is still alive next week, you can absolutely take the credit*.



The second session was meant to be outside too, but a lively storm rolled through, so we moved indoors. Everyone soon discovered that compost is equally determined to cling to clothing whether you are in the garden or safely under a roof. Each volunteer left with a basket full of colour and a well-earned sense of pride.

As we mark Volunteers' Week, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to our gardening team, to everyone who joined in with both the sunny and stormy sessions and to all 200+ volunteers across the charity who make everything we do possible.

Shirley Johnson
Email: shirley@thetouchpoint.org



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NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Our May meeting was a spectacular *Night at the Movies* with a demonstrator new to our Club, Julie Richardson from the Isle of Wight. In a previous career, Julie was a member of the Royal Navy but qualified as a NAFAS floral demonstrator in 2024. Her personality and sense of humour, and that of her mum who accompanied her, engaged our members and visitors and got everyone guessing the movie being depicted by her arrangements. It was a great evening, and the cartons of popcorn served by the Committee added to the mood.



Pirates of the Caribbean

The National Flower Show at Hylands House in Chelmsford also took place in May. In addition to the numerous outdoor flower and trade stalls and a talk from BBC's Adam Frost, the inside of the house was adorned with the most wonderful floral displays all themed around the Wild West. There were various floral art competitions, and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Club member and NAFAS demonstrator Lorraine Gagen for gaining two second places with her designs.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 15th July** 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall, when we welcome Debbie Bull whose demonstration will be *Forget Me Not*. Please come and join us, you will be very welcome. You can contact us by email or our Facebook page, Ugley Bunch Flower Club.

Sandra Honour
Programme Secretary
Email: ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our May meeting was the Annual General Meeting so we had no speaker. Official business included welcoming our new Committee members, reporting our activities since the last AGM and a fond farewell to a retiring member of the Committee after 15 years' service. Then the entertainment began. This took the form of a very entertaining quiz with a musical round and a Ding Bat round that had us

scratching our heads! An enjoyable afternoon drew to a close with our usual lovely refreshments and drawing of our well-stocked raffle.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 15th July** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall when two of our Committee members will be organising a card-making afternoon. Why not come along and join us and see what you can create? You would be most welcome.

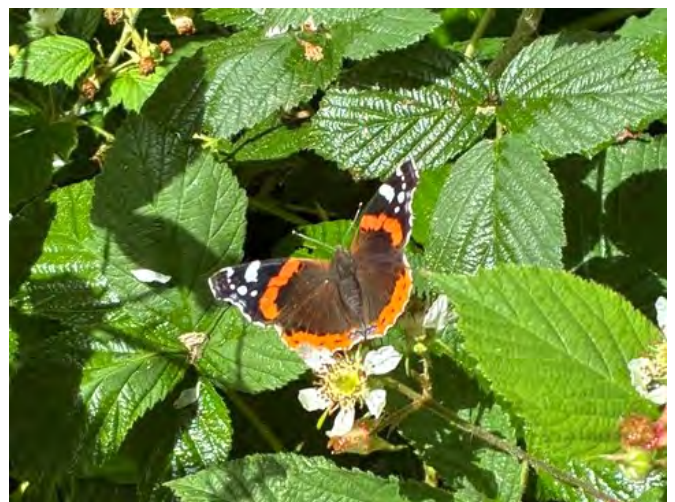
Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/aubrey-buxton

In spring we had some very early morning starts in order to carry out the breeding bird surveys in the reserve. At this time of the year there are some 30 different species of bird to be found in here and we were pleased once again this year to find both mistlethrush, a red listed species, and grey wagtail.

At the time of writing the common spotted orchids are in flower. This year they are showing in quite good numbers again although they do seem to be shorter and generally smaller than last year. Perhaps the lack of rain in May has restricted their growth. Or it may be that the lack of rain has meant that the grasses have not grown so well, meaning that the orchids do not need to grow so high to push above the grass. I am sure somebody out there knows which is true, perhaps both. In any event the pink flowers are contrasting strongly with the yellow of the bird's-foot-trefoil which is flowering at the same time and is an important food plant for the caterpillars of our common blue butterfly.



The rains in the first week of June were much needed by the plants, but it has meant that I have seen fewer butterflies so far this year. However, the red admiral shown above took advantage of a break in the rain to feed on the bramble flowers.

John Welham
Warden
Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk

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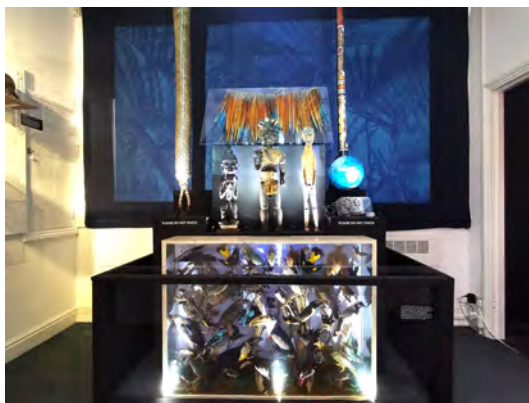
www.saffronwaldenmuseum.org

Celebration of 100 years of Sir David Attenborough

Our exhibition, which runs until **Wednesday 16th September**, explores how Sir David has shaped our view of the natural world, and features displays inspired by programmes such as *Zoo Quest*, *Life on Earth* and *Life of Birds*.

Natural science and ethnographic objects are central, showcasing the museum's historically important collections of global culture and natural history. Visitors can meet the snake-necked bird, which spears its prey with a dagger-like beak, view stone axe heads from Papua New Guinea and get up close to the superb lyrebird whilst listening to its incredible mimicry.

The exhibition features many objects that have not recently been on display, together with some favourites from the permanent galleries which have been cleaned and conserved.



Also spotlighted are some of his less well-known roles, including as a sound recordist on the early *Zoo Quest* series. Visitors can explore a sound room and immerse themselves in audio from birds and instruments from across the globe. They can also try their hand at a game of *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral* which was produced by Sir David, and for those who saw the original programme, yes the objects are slowly rotating!

The Museum is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10.00am-5.00pm, Sundays and Bank Holidays 2.00pm-5.00pm. During term time Wednesdays are reserved for schools and pre-booked groups. Admission: adults £5, concessions £2.50, under 18s free. For further information, please contact me or visit our website and social media feeds.

Charlotte Pratt
Tel: 01799 510333
Email: cpratt@uttlesford.gov.uk

STANSTED LIBRARY

www.libraries.essex.gov.uk

Summer reading challenge

This year's event runs from **Saturday 18th July to Saturday 5th September** (early joiners day 4th July). Further information about the challenge is available at the library. It is a great scheme to promote reading for our young people. Free stickers and a certificate or medal for all those who complete the challenge. In this National Year of Reading, it is especially important to promote the love of reading to our young people.

For details of the many regular events taking place at the library, please see the June issue of The Link.



Krishna Mukhoty
Tel: 0345 603 7628
Email: stansted.library@essex.gov.uk

DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org



We are so excited as once more our fabulous woodland campsite is open and we are ready to receive guests. You can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or stay in our camper and caravan paddock where there is lots of space and beautiful scenery. These options obviously include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and their babies. What a fabulous holiday on your doorstep and all for just £25 a night. Please message us through our Facebook page to book. We still have babies of all sorts everywhere: chicks, ducklings, lambs and kid goats, who love a cuddle and are so very cute.



We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a train ride (£2 extra), a stream to splash in, a woodland trail to explore, ice creams to be slurped, crafts to be created, fresh homemade food to buy and more. Entry is only £6 (under 1s free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family. We are open 9.00am-4.00pm weekdays, 10.00am-4.00pm weekends and there is no need to book. Please always check our Facebook page just in case of any changes. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN. 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 see us over the summer. We really look forward to your visit.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Upside-down truths

The Beatitudes or *the beautiful attitudes*, as I like to think of them, offer us eight verses of incredible promises for those who live according to their radical demands. They are deemed to be foundational in the teachings of Jesus about how to live a Christian life and offer us moral and ethical imperatives. In them, we find that the world's accepted standards are turned upside down, and that it is the people who are usually deemed to be afflicted, who achieve blessings, that inward sense of happiness and completeness. So it is that the poor, the weak and the pure in heart, who understand what life is truly about, not the rich, the strong, the worldly and sophisticated.

Mahatma Ghandi said that *The Beatitudes contain a message that could save the world. What a pity that Christians have been listening to this message for 2000 years, but they're like stones lying in the water for centuries, never soaking up a single drop.*

Malcom Muggeridge was more hopeful when he wrote: *No one has fully carried out his (Jesus) behests, but it is due to his words that some, at least, have tried.*

I wonder what strikes you most about these verses and what puzzles you most about them? Some of these demands are more idealistic than practical; which ones can you embrace, and which do you find more difficult? How do or can you show these qualities in your daily life and to whom? Do you feel blessed by them?

Heather Kent
Stansted Quaker Meeting



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

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

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

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



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Baptisms: By appointment





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Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for July

5th 10.30am Babs Ward - New Directions
12th 10.30am Mike Dyer
19th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion
26th 10.30am Topsy Brice

As our new minister does not start until September, please contact our secretary with any enquiries.



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
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From St John's Registers

May

Baptism

24th Nancy Grace Stevens

Funeral

12th Edward John White, age 86 - at
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ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Forever flowers

Remember someone special this summer by dedicating a handcrafted *forever flower* from the Hospice, a lasting tribute celebrating love, memory and important moments. With a suggested donation of £28 per flower, supporters can remember a loved one while helping fund specialist care.

Each year a new colour is added to the collection. This year, they are sunshine yellow, ready to complement your garden or special place. Each *forever flower* can be displayed in a place that feels special, or left within the Hospice grounds as part of a shared space of remembrance. Every dedication will help our specialist team continue caring for people approaching the end of life, as well as supporting families through bereavement and beyond.



For Jen and her family, the Hospice provided moments they will always treasure after her mum, Wyn, was admitted. Jen said the atmosphere was immediately reassuring. She said that there was birdsong, calm and dignity. It did not feel clinical, it felt like somewhere Mum could truly be herself. One of the doctors asked us what was important to Mum. We mentioned her love of horses, never imagining what might happen next. Soon after, a horse called Pebbles came to visit her in the Hospice garden. Jen recalled how powerful the experience was. As Pebbles gently lowered his head towards her, something changed. In that moment, she was a little girl again. Amid heartbreak, it gave us something joyful and full of meaning.

Forever flowers are available from Hayley Tamplin email: hayley.tamplin@stclarehospice.org.uk, or call 773750. Or you can visit our website and search for *forever flowers*.

Ellen Munson
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SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

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Water in the landscape

Last month, a few members of the group attended an inspiring event hosted by the Newport River Group. They are undertaking an ambitious project to restore stretches of the River Cam and wetland areas in Newport. This work will re-wet the landscape, helping it to hold more water, act as flood protection and help maintain the groundwater levels in periods of drought. By recharging the aquifers, water availability is improved for all of us.

More widespread river and wetland restoration will be needed as our climate changes, and the rain falls in increasingly concentrated and intense bursts. We need to enable the land to store water and our water companies are well aware of this; the upper Stort and the surrounding chalk landscape are a priority area for Affinity Water, and there is a focus on restoring chalk streams to build resilience into the water supply.

Sustainable Stansted has begun a monitoring project on both the Stort and Stansted Brook. Over the next year we will continue to collect data on the nutrients in the water, which will tell us about the overall health of the river, and we will learn more about the wildlife in and around the water. The aim is to help these waterways to thrive again, as well as the countryside around them.



For projects in river restoration to be successful, collaboration between communities, landowners, water companies and conservation groups is needed. Do you have the knowledge, expertise or just good old enthusiasm to make such a project happen in Stansted? Please email us at sustainablestansted@gmail.com if you would like to get involved or for more information about any of our activities.

Kate Allen

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the May draw:

£100	No 154	Kathy West
£50	No 18	Gina Thomas
£25	No 179	Paul Salmon

The draw for June will be held on **26th July** 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. There is a limit of five numbers per household. 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

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CHURCH SERVICE

You are warmly invited to join us at Broome End Care Home, Pines Hill for a Dementia Friendly Church Service led by St John's Church. These services will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 10.30am and the next one is on **Thursday 2nd July**. This will be a relaxed and welcoming service designed to be accessible and enjoyable for people living with dementia, their families, friends and carers. We look forward to seeing you there.

Cathy Knowles

Activities Co-ordinator

Tel: 816455

Email: activities_be@curaa.co.uk



RECYCLING



If you go abroad for your summer holiday, please remember to let us have any foreign coins you may have left over. They can be placed in the boxes outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill along with the other items for recycling: stamps, original ink cartridges, mobile phones, iPads and tablets. There is also a collecting box in the porch of St John's church, which is open most Tuesday mornings and some Saturday mornings. Please place items in a paper or plastic bag or envelope using a separate bag for each category. You can also leave items for recycling in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Other items

Please do not leave spectacles, blister packs or any dental products, as they only end up in the dustbin and we only have one small one at the church. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk





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THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

After the rains in early June ended the spring drought, we are hoping that more typical weather will enable the Gardens to continue to thrive and look lovely throughout July. We can always count on the waterlilies, nepeta and helenium in the Italian Garden.



The Japanese style gardens retain interest from the range of shapes and colours of their foliage. The wildflower spiral, dahlias and vegetables in the walled kitchen garden are growing at pace and there should be a steady flow of fresh produce on sale. We have renewed our lavender hedges and hope that they will be just as attractive to the butterflies, bees and hummingbird hawk moths as the straggly old ones were.

In summer visitors enjoy the garden games on the croquet lawn; there is something for all the family, from the skill and interesting tactics in croquet to the clatter of large Jenga toppling to the ground! The Gardens are open every Thursday 11.00am-3.00pm, last entry 2.00pm. Entry is £5.50, children free.

Our *Discovery Open Day* is on **Sunday 12th July** 11.00am-5.00pm, last entry 4.00pm, when we will have a range of additional activities. There will be a display of our native birds of prey by Fens Falconry and our archivists will share stories about the Countess of Warwick's love of animals.

There will be other nature-based activities, including pond dipping and children's craft; and a mini-concert from Harlow Concert Band from 11.30am. Refreshments will be available from the kiosk and the Giggly Pig. For more information, please see our website. Entry: £6 in advance via our website, £7.50 on the day, children free.

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



**THE HUNDRED
PARISHES SOCIETY**
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Last year's Royal Horticultural Society's State of Gardening Report revealed that gardens cover three times the size of the UK's National Nature Reserves. They support over 50 million trees and thousands of species, providing habitats for over half of the UK's butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, and more than 40% of birds. Many of the listed buildings within the Hundred Parishes are surrounded by a private garden which enhances their setting. They support a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowers, native or introduced, providing havens for assorted wildlife.

Gardens associated with such older properties will have been tended by many generations of residents, evolving over time as owners were influenced by fashionable trends. Initially, they were stocked with native trees and shrubs, selected for their ability to provide fuel, timber, fence posts or fruits, while vegetables helped feed the family.



Steeple Bumpstead pond

From the mid-17th century onwards, non-native tree species began to appear such as cedars and horse chestnuts, planted initially within the estates of trend-setting wealthy landowners. By the mid-19th century, gardeners were able to source an increasing number of exotic species as diligent plant hunters discovered them in various parts of the globe and the precious seeds or small saplings were grown in nurseries then released for sale.

Engaging with a garden improves mental, physical and social wellbeing, with 77% of gardeners reporting positive impacts on their mental health. Local residents have access to wonderful, extensive gardens such as Easton Lodge, Audley End House or Saffron Walden's Bridge End Gardens, but enjoying a private garden brings a great deal of pleasure too. Our website includes an article on gardens and the What's On page shows dates of specific local open gardens.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

with news on City and Country's controversial planning application for Stansted, PCSO funding, a six-figure payment from Essex County Council, and work to boost trade between Stansted and Rungis

Report favours Stan-Hanger

Land increasingly seen as Grey-belt by district planners

As these pages go to print, a significant development has taken place in relation to plans for hundreds of new homes on land near Stansted.

Uttlesford District Council has published a report by a planning officer recommending approval of planning application UTT/25/3012/OP. While the report does not itself grant planning permission, it has been prepared for consideration by the Uttlesford Planning Committee, which is due to meet on 10 June to determine the application submitted by City and Country.

The developer submitted its outline application in September 2025, seeking the okay to build 300 homes together with offices, shops and a care home on land to the south of Stansted. At the time of submission, the site was designated as Metropolitan Green Belt land.

In the report, the planning officer concludes that the site can be regarded as Grey Belt land and argues that it does not make a strong contribution to the purposes of the Green Belt. The report also states that landscape and visual impacts would be localised and highlights what it describes as substantial public benefits — new housing, principally. The report's executive summary recommends that the Strategic Director of Planning be authorised to grant permission for the development. The final decision rests with elected members of Uttlesford's Planning Committee. They will consider the officer's recommendation alongside representations made by local residents, organisations and statutory consultees.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council remains strongly opposed to the application. It risks the merger of Stansted Mountfitchet and Birchanger, could jam local roads, and impact on public services. Representatives of the Parish Council will attend the committee meeting on 10 June to present these concerns. We will report the outcome in next month's Link. In the meantime, readers can read the planning officer's report on the district council's planning application page on their website. Search UTT/25/3012/OP

www.uttlesford.gov.uk/planning-application

Safe space for domestic violence victims

In June representatives from Uttlesford District Council and the domestic abuse awareness initiative J9 visited the Parish

Council offices to award staff and councillors certificates to mark their completion of J9's online training course. Signage has been placed at the Mountfitchet Exchange to highlight that Parish Council offices (staff and Councillors) are now officially a safe space where

those who are experiencing domestic abuse can go to directed to charities and public agencies to help them with their situation



High costs of community PCSO

Councillors decide against a dedicated role for Stansted

At a Full Council meeting in May, SMPC decided not to pursue funding a dedicated Police Community Support Officer for the village.

After Essex Police in March took on sole responsibility for employing PCSOs across the county, Councillors considered whether directly funding the role would secure a dedicated policing presence for Stansted.

End to shared funding

Since 2020, SMPC has shared the cost of a local PCSO with Henham, Elsenham and Uttlesford District Councils, with the officer covering all three villages. The main obstacle to continuing the arrangement was cost.

KEY FACTS

£85,000

Estimated annual cost of employing a dedicated PCSO, including salary, pension and training.

Funding Required

SMPC would need to cover 100% of the costs to employ PCSO, with Elsenham and Henham reluctant to meet their share of UDC funding shortfall.

No change to local coverage

Essex Police says PCSO Alex Stewart will continue to patrol the same beat serving Stansted and nearby villages.



Uttlesford District Council's funding reserves for police roles have now been exhausted. The authority is also due to cease operating by 2028 as part of local government reorganisation. Elsenham and Henham have indicated they could not make up the funding shortfall, as Uttlesford covers 50 percent of the cost currently.

Essex Police say the Parish Council should expect to budget £85,000 a year for a PCSO. Councillors reasoned this amount would place an undue burden on SMPC finances and residents, who would face higher precepts to fund the role.

No 'Change in Service'

Essex Police has reassured the Parish Council that residents will continue to see PCSO Alex Stewart in the community. There would be "no change in service" and that he would continue covering the same local beats as before.

Library pay-off

Essex Libraries settles outstanding payment

Some welcome mail was delivered to the Parish Council in May in the form of a cheque for £109,881.68. The payment allows SMPC to close a long-standing account relating to rent, energy, and cleaning costs for the Mountfitchet Exchange owed by Essex Libraries.

Since the Exchange opened in 2020, Essex County Council has operated a library from the premises and has been responsible for associated utility and rental charges. Although the Council was repeatedly advised that payment would be made, the costs remained outstanding. With the expected reorganisation of Essex County Council, securing settlement of outstanding sums had become increasingly important. The arrival of the cheque has therefore been a welcome development and will make the drafting of future accounts somewhat easier.



Trade with Rungis explored

Talks with airport sought to expand bilateral ties

With local businesses facing increasing pressures, members of the Parish Council are hoping to join forces the Stansted Business Forum to explore ways of strengthening the local trading environment.

SMPC Chair Maureen Caton believes that there is potential for leveraging existing ties with Rungis to foster trade between the French town and Stansted, which in turn could hinge on co-operation from Stansted Airport. Rungis International Market is one of Europe's largest wholesale markets, with more than 1,200 businesses operating there, while Stansted is close to the UK's third largest airport.

"It's a simple idea," said Cllr Caton. "Stansted is near to London with excellent rail, road and airport connections. Rungis, close to Orly Airport and home to one of Europe's largest wholesale markets, could provide an important gateway for local businesses looking to trade with France." Representatives from the Stansted Business Forum and the Parish Council are hoping to meet airport officials about potential flights to Paris Orly Airport, the closest airport to Rungis and a major hub for commercial trade.

"It is still early days, but we are hopeful that something positive could come from the discussions," added Cllr Caton.

Councillors & Committees 2026

At the Annual Council meeting held in May Parish Councillors voted for Maureen Caton and Ayub Khan to continue in their roles as the Chair and Vice Chair of the SMPC, respectively. John O'Brien who took on responsibility for the Finance and General Purposes committee after its head Peter Jones died in September, also remains in his position in 2026/27. A new chair of the Open Spaces committee was chosen in the form of George Braeckman, whose deputy

is Cllr James Hardy. The Personnel sub-committee will be chaired by Anne Guney, while Geoffrey Sell continues as the Highways sub-committee chair.

Our focus will be on planning for the impact of Local Government Reform and guiding our Neighbourhood Plan through to adoption



Cllr Caton

SMPC Chair 2026/27

As a body, the Council is responsible for strategic decisions, setting policy and pushing forward major projects.

We'll be focusing our efforts on finding suitable replacement play equipment at the Recreation Ground



Cllr Braeckman

Open Spaces Chair 2026/27

The Committee oversees allotments, cemeteries, play areas, grounds maintenance and village open spaces.

Our aim is to maintain a sustainable level of support for our community in these difficult times



Cllr Brien

Chair of Finance & General Purposes 2026/27

The Committee draws up the council budget and keeps its finances on track

Want to make a difference?



JOIN THE PARISH COUNCIL Community champion needed

As you can see from our pages this month, Parish Councillors find themselves at the heart of decisions on community life, weighing up whether to invest in village policing, how best to support local businesses, down to organising some goalposts on the Rec.

Download an application pack

If you would like to join them, there is still one remaining place on the Full Council. You can find out more about what being a Parish Councillor on our website, where you can also download a co-option application pack:



stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/joinsmpc

Anglia in Bloom 2026



Dry weather in May delayed preparation for this year's Anglia in Bloom campaign. The Parish Council's contractor concluded that planting to the original schedule risked flowers fading before judges visit the village in July. Instead, GWB Horticulture installed more than 108 hanging baskets at the start of June and has been watering the baskets and planters twice monthly. To further enhance Stansted's entry, SMPC has also funded additional flower planting in the Memorial Gardens along Chapel Hill. The results of the competition will be announced in September.

New goals at the Rec



The grass at the Recreation Ground experiences wear during the summer months due to the popularity of the open space and dry weather. To help the playing surface recover, the Open Spaces Committee asked its contractor to relocate the goalposts when a new set was installed in May. The new goalposts—funded by the Parish Council—cost £2,952 including purchase, installation and new ground sockets. The Committee has also agreed to invest in protective matting over the goalmouths to help preserve the playing surface particularly during the winter months, when these areas can become muddy.

Roadworks in July

Significant roadworks affecting the village include Cambridge Road and Silver Street (near the Chapel Hill junction) from 21-25 July; as well as Church Road, which starts a four-week closure from 27 July. SMPC is not responsible for the scheduling or approving of roadworks. For further information

 essexhighways.org/future-roadworks-map

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Liberal
Democrats

Geoffrey Sell

Uttlesford District Councillor for Stansted North

Uttlesford's Local Plan (2021-41) was recently adopted. It has taken over 20 years to get this far. We were in the last chance saloon to get a Local Plan approved, and it will put us in a stronger position to resist speculative planning applications. The previous Local Plan was adopted in 2005 and was undoubtedly out-of-date.

Shutting the stable door

It is a huge end to the journey although somewhat shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. This is because the bulk of what we needed to provide in the district has already been given consent or is being built, so we have lost out in terms of infrastructure requirements.

The Local Plan is now a statutory development document, which means all future planning decisions must have regard



to it. The plan will remain in place even when the Local Government Reorganisation has taken place.

Uttlesford District Council still cannot prove that it has a five year housing supply.

Despite the adoption of the Local Plan, UDC still cannot prove that it has a five year housing supply. We are waiting for government confirmation

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has confirmed Essex will have five new unitary authorities, and Uttlesford will join Harlow and Epping Forest in a West Essex Council.

Key dates

- Elections to the new unitary authorities on 6 May 2027
- New unitary authorities go live on 1 April 2028 (Vesting Day)

I seconded the motion for the five unitaries. Not because it is perfect, it isn't, but because the alternative proposed by Essex County Council would have seen a mega council of over 600,000 people stretching from Stansted to Clacton. Currently all monies raised by UDC are spent in Uttlesford. In the new unitary that does not necessarily have to be the case. Secondly when the unitary authority prepares the new Local Plan who will bear the brunt of growth Epping Forest, Harlow or Uttlesford?

There will be 25 councillors from Uttlesford on the new unitary council. Each councillor will represent about 3,000 electors. There will be a Stansted Mountfitchet ward, which will replace the existing Stansted North and Stansted South & Birchanger wards. I asked residents whether they preferred the ward to be called Stansted (as UDC) was proposing or Stansted Mountfitchet. The overwhelming preference was for the latter which UDC has accepted.

Election Results

I should like to thank all those who supported me in the recent county council elections. I should also like to congratulate Cllr Ray Gooding, who was re-elected as the county councillor for the Stansted Division. As by now you will probably know, Reform UK won control from the Conservatives to run Essex County Council.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

An answer phone service takes messages after 2pm Monday to Friday and during the weekends

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Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

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Parish Councillors

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ryanackerman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

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Chair of SMPC

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Ayub KHAN | ☎ 815800

Vice Chair of SMPC

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John O'BRIEN | ☎ 816772

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Geoffrey SELL | ☎ 815925

cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Colin WARE | ☎ 07722438067

colin.ware@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are on Wednesdays from 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. You can also follow meetings online using Zoom.

The log-on details are published with the agendas ahead of meetings on the SMPC website:

1st July Full Council

8th July Highways

15th July Open Spaces

29th July Full Council

Uttlesford District Councillors

Alan DEAN

☎ 813579 email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL

☎ 815925 email: cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: cllrgooding@uttlesford.gov.uk

Nick CHURCH

email: cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Councillor

Ray Gooding

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

Member Of Parliament

Kemi BADENOCH MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA ☎ 0207 219 1943

email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Police PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART

email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk; Call 101 (non-serious), or 999 (serious & ongoing incidents) www.essex.police.uk/ro/report

St Mary's School Fete: Saturday, 4th July - times tbc

Stansted Youth Club (Peter Kirk Centre): Monday, 7th July – 7-8pm

TouchPoint (72 Chapel Hill): Monday, 13th July – 11am-noon

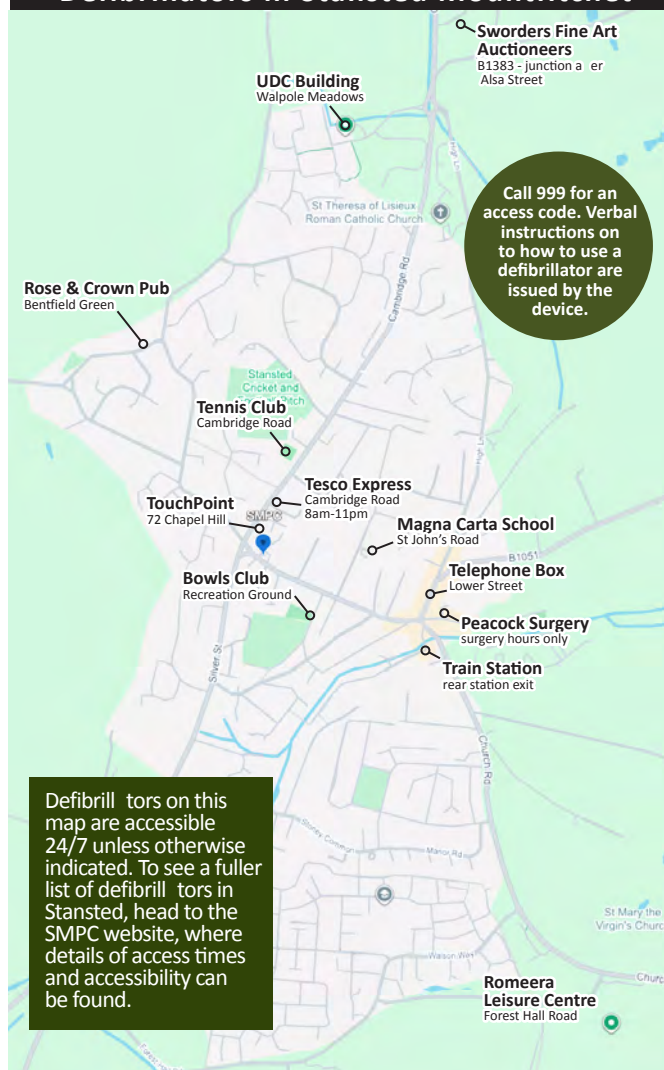
Monday, 23rd July – 10am-noon, Thursday, 30th July – 10am-noon

Advice Sessions Uttlesford Citizens Advice run a FREE drop-in service at the Mountfitchet Exchange every Thursday from 9.30am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. An advisor is also on hand via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. **Peabody Trust's** drop-in service—also at the Mountfitchet Exchange—is on **Thursday, 9th July** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits, evictions, rent arrears, debt.

TouchPoint, Stansted The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill up your larder for free. **Food shares** on Green Wednesdays 5-5.30pm; Thursdays 10am-2pm, Fridays 1-2pm and Saturdays 10-11am **Community Cafe** Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-noon **Free hot meals** on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm **Breakfast Club** every Friday 9am-10am Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

Garden Waste Skip Service The SMPC-funded garden waste service runs in the Lower Street car park on **Sunday, 5th July and Sunday 19th July – 1-5pm.**

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BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Pupils being their best

In June our children had a wellbeing day centred around one of our values: *Being Our Best: Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds*. The day was designed to support the whole child while creating a calm and purposeful start to the half-term. Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of engaging and enriching activities organised into three key sessions.

In our **Spiritual Wellbeing** session, pupils explored the importance of mindfulness and reflection. They participated in a variety of relaxing activities, learning how to focus their breathing, settle their thoughts and appreciate the present moment.

Children also spent time thinking about thankfulness and gratitude, sharing what they are thankful for and recognising the positive aspects of their lives. Some classes also took part in yoga, further supporting relaxation, balance and wellbeing.

The **Physical Health** session was more energetic as pupils took part in a variety of active challenges, including fitness circuits and team games such as *Capture the Flag* which encouraged skills of collaboration, resilience and teamwork. The children then thought about why exercise is important and how it benefits our mind and body.



Finally, our **Nature and Creativity** session provided children with the opportunity to explore the outdoors or connect with nature in other ways. Some pupils enjoyed a sensory walk, taking time to feel the rain and smell the flowers. Other classes took part in observational drawing of flowers and others did mindful art activities, including creating beautiful clay ornaments decorated with flowers. It was a lovely day which helped set a wonderful tone for the busy term ahead.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362
Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

It has been an incredibly busy few weeks at our school. Our Year 6s recently enjoyed their residential trip to Aylmerton. It was jam-packed with lots of activities including den building, bingo, swimming, team building activities and a trip to Cromer pier. From tackling a long, muddy walk along the beach to dressing up as pirates and enjoying the disco, the children pushed themselves out of their comfort zones and made memories that will last a lifetime. The group represented our school beautifully, showing kindness and support for one another throughout the week.



Looking ahead to the next academic year, we were delighted to welcome our new families at the New Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Parents' Meeting. It was wonderful to see so many faces in the hall and to see everyone sampling some delicious home-cooked food from our kitchen. Starting school is a massive milestone and we look forward to seeing our new starters at our stay and play session in July, where they will have the opportunity to explore their new classroom and outdoor space.

Finally, the countdown is officially on for this year's Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) Summer Fayre on **Saturday 4th July** from noon onwards. Please come and support our wonderful PTFA in raising money for the school. This year promises to be an exciting event, including an assault course and inflatables, food stalls, performances, a raffle and the highlight, the foam party! Events like these are only possible thanks to our incredible school community. Whether you are a new parent, a proud Year 6 parent or a local resident, we invite you all to come along, enjoy the sunshine and give our school lots of support.



Stephanie Marshall
Early Years Foundation Teacher
Email: smarshall@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk



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A planting frenzy at Human Roots

Luckily we managed to plant the bulk of home-grown plants from seed just before the heatwave at the end of May. This meant that the watering rota for volunteers came into force. Fortunately, water is provided at Elms Farm allotments; this is a real treat, but the volunteers never abuse the privilege and only use water when necessary, and that is in addition to collecting our own rainwater. Because the volunteers have been so successful growing seeds at home, we had to change our planting plan to utilise every bit of space on the plot. Part of having an allotment is being prepared for anything. Slugs and snails may well be hiding now but they will certainly show their face when it rains; if so, we have a follow-up second wave of planting in reserve.

Following the success of the mangetouts last year we have planted something similar, sugar snap peas, this year. Parsnips, another roast dinner favourite, are also back but planted in a different bed and, a first this year for us, we are trying swede. All the other staples are planted and growing happily.



Being outside in the sunshine evidently increases our level of serotonin aka the happiness hormone which is why, whenever you see Human Roots volunteers, they are always smiling!

We try to meet up once a week, but understandably people have other commitments; there is no pressure and, of course, it depends on the weather. We tend the allotment throughout the year, and this includes the best bit; picking our lovely produce. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community. If you are interested in joining us, please email Cathy at humanrootscommunity@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer



HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

Summer is a great time to go for a walk and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of Hatfield Forest. The school holidays will soon be in full swing, and the sunshine is still with us. The variety of habitats here at the forest attracts many birds. Resident species include small woodland birds such as linnetts 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.



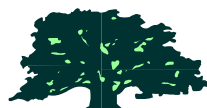
Visit us and you may spot one of our beautiful butterflies. Thanks to coppice restoration and ride management, a growing number of butterfly species can be found in the forest. Recent species rediscovered include the silver-washed fritillary (pictured below), white admiral and purple emperor.

Theatrical events in the forest include *Pinocchio* presented by Illyria on **Friday 10th July** 6.00pm-8.15pm. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Quantum Theatre is in August and *The Three Musketeers* in September. Tickets for *Pinocchio*: adults £19, children £10, can be booked via the link to upcoming events on our website, where further details of the August and September theatrical events may be found. Bring your own rug or chair.

Dogs are very welcome at Hatfield Forest. Please remember to keep them on a short lead in the lake area and around livestock. 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 in the forest. So, come and discover more at Hatfield Forest.

Hannah Underwood
Assistant Business Services Co-ordinator
Tel: 870678

Email: hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk



BRAIN TRAINING

How to reduce the fear of falling over, part 4

Brains work astonishingly fast! Falling is fast, but the brain is faster; as we are falling it makes calculations, one being can we get up off the floor unaided? If we know we cannot, panic levels rise, resulting in disastrous stiffening of the arms and legs to stop the fall. Therefore, a vital part of reducing the fear of falling is to be able to get up and down off the floor. When did that last happen? Try it now, hopefully there will be no surprises. The natural way of picking stuff up off the floor is to bend at the hips, and that is fine, as long as we can still get up and down from the floor. To retain leg strength, instead of just bending at the hips, sometimes bend the knees a lot to get yourself down and wear shoes with shoelaces.



Another way of retaining and strengthening the legs is to sit down on a chair with control, but avoid plopping onto it. The most vital part of this sitting action is to land softly; the tendency is to control the initial sit, then collapse as your bottom is closer onto the chair. To stand up, push your feet firmly into the floor, squeeze your bottom and push the floor away, thus engaging the legs as much as possible. You could progress to sitting on a lower and lower step of your stairs until getting up and down from the floor presents no problem. Your brain will know this. It will enjoy having stronger legs; the next article on falling will give more reasons why reasonably strong legs reduce fear of falling.

Clare Harding

Tel: 07802 87291

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www.southmillarts.co.uk

July entertainment

The Lil Mill Book Club returns for its second event on **Wednesday 1st July** at 6.00pm. The Book Club meets in the Theatre Lounge at South Mill Arts every other month on the first Wednesday. The main title for July is *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir.

Join us for a Family Fun Day on **Saturday 25th** 11.00am-3.00pm. Enjoy pop-up performances, workshops, children's activities, food trucks, and so much more for all the family. This event is free, just turn up and have fun.

Catch the latest blockbusters and National Theatre Live on our screen this month: *The Devil Wears Prada 2* and *Michael* are on **Monday 13th** and **Tuesday 21st** 7.00pm and 2.00pm.

Watch *NT Live: Les Liaisons Dangereuses* on the big screen on **Tuesday 14th July** at 7.00pm. Join the museum team for Story-time on **Tuesday 7th** at 10.30am.

Delve into the history of the Dorrington Family with a fascinating talk on **Tuesday 21st** at 12.30pm Take a stroll through Bishop's Stortford's historic entertainment venues on **Sunday 26th** at 11.00am.



Fancy a night of great live music? *Acoustic Club* are back in the Theatre Lounge on **Thursday 9th** and **Thursday 23rd** at 8.00pm, plus the established jam night, *Moon Jammers*, joins us on **Sunday 26th** at 7.30pm. This is a jam for players and fans of blues, soul, funk and all musical points in between, and entry is free. For more information about everything that is happening at South Mill Arts this season, please see our website.

Seren Stephens

Tel: 710200

Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk





STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

Paul Turner visited the windmill in May; he is the younger brother of the late Keith Turner who used to be the organist at St Mary's Church and was a Scout Leader. Paul grew up in the village but now lives in Dorset and was back to revisit places of his youth. He was a Scout in the days when the windmill was the local Scout headquarters from 1941-1963 and Malcolm Treacher was the Scout Leader. Paul was accompanied by his nieces Karen and Sandra, Keith's daughters. Despite being 90 years old and partially sighted, Paul climbed the stairs as far as the Stone (2nd) floor. He related how Malcolm told the Scouts that the mill was haunted by the ghost of Joseph Lindsell who was the first miller back in the late 1700s.



Some of you may have noticed that we have a new information board. The previous one was in a sorry state so we were really pleased that The Stansted Craftsmen offered to build a new frame free of charge and we were able to use funds donated by regulars at The Dog and Duck to get the board printed.

If you are a business or a not-for-profit organisation who would like to have a stall at the windmill fête at the end of August, please contact me. We would also like to hear from anyone who would like to sponsor one of the attractions and we need volunteers to help set up the fête, run a stall or help clear up afterwards. We would be tremendously grateful. The Mill is open as usual on **Sunday 5th July** 1.30pm-5.30pm with last entry at 5.00pm.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 07739 428352

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk

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STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club

The Club would like to thank The Stansted Airport Community Fund for their significant contribution towards the purchase of a wicket roller. This fund has and continues to support organisations locally and does make a huge difference. Both 1st XI and 2nd XI are just above halfway in the local leagues Division 1 and 3. The 1st XI had a very exciting match with Potter Street recently, tying on 270! The juniors are enjoying plenty of cricket in the West Essex League and Friday evenings continue to be fun with our All Stars and Dynamo young cricketers.

Now speaking of age, I attended the funeral recently of a true gentleman by the name of Bernard Ellis. I remember Bernard playing football for Stansted and refereeing football locally. I also remember him for being an active member of Farnham Cricket Club. How long was he associated with that club? Well unbelievably 80 years, incredible! Having been with my club for 70 years next year I feel a mere novice.



David Brown

Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663

Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com

STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk



I am delighted you have paused to read this article. The Club has existed since 1906, so this year sees our 120th anniversary. We are celebrating by hosting three bowls tournaments against representative sides from the Essex bowling family. The Essex Vice President's match was on 13th June, **Saturday 4th July** is the North West Essex Bowling Association and **Saturday 9th August** is the Essex County combined Men's and Women's Associations. Spectators are always welcome to the fixtures at our Club in Recreation Ground.

Our Facebook page, Stansted Bowling Club, has details of what is currently happening and gives feedback on recent results. We are exploring ways to keep connected to the local community and are currently working with Forest Hall School on a plan to brighten up the external appearance of the Clubhouse. Please take a look at the notice board outside the building to see what is happening.

The Club has entered Stansted in Bloom for 2026, as we do every year; this reflects what lurks behind the rather bland external white façade. We are open for social events and the Clubhouse is available for hire. Friday evenings are social nights and the bar is open with very enticing bar prices. Why not venture in? Most of the players have been active in either bowls or indeed virtually every other sport you can imagine over their lifetime. Bowls is as competitive as you want to make it. The Stansted Club is a small, friendly environment and beginners as well as more experienced players are most welcome. Hope to see you at the Club sometime soon.

David Danby

Secretary

Tel: 07799 722940

Email: daviddanby30@gmail.com



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Local children love tennis!

Our children's summer camp takes place from **Monday 3rd-Friday 7th August**. There is nothing quite like the sound of children enjoying themselves in the summertime and coaches Dan Warwick and Phil Dillon do an amazing job of making this happen.

The day is split into two sessions with 5-10 year-olds from 9.30am-12.30pm and ages 11 and over from 1.00pm-4.00pm. Last year was very well attended with 30 each morning and 20 in the afternoon. There was a total of 250 children, an amazing achievement! Children come from Stansted and the local area including Elsenham, Bishop's Stortford and Clavering.

We have a core group of children who sign up every year and we also have many newcomers. Dan Warwick said that *they cater for everyone no matter the ability of players and ensure that they all have an absolutely great day with lots of fun games while learning about tennis.*



We have a thriving junior section nurtured by Dan and Phil, so we have a large stock of specific junior equipment. This helps them make drills and practice sessions fun, providing a healthy dose of games to challenge and test skills.

The whole day is about making sure every child has an enjoyable time, has fun with friends and uses up loads of energy. We are proud to offer local youngsters the opportunity to try tennis, a sport that people can enjoy for a lifetime. To sign up or get information on camp prices email Dan on danw.tennis@gmail.com.

Jon Budd

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR

We are delighted to announce that we will once more be holding our *Summer Choral Extravaganza* on **Saturday 18th July** at Elsenham Village Hall, High Street CM22 6DD (next to the school) from 2.30pm. We will be singing a variety of songs, some old and some completely new to us and we would love you to join us! There will be summer refreshments at the interval. There is no charge for this event, but we will be happy to receive donations for a local charity. We have been practising hard so don't miss us; we look forward to welcoming you.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

After a promising start to the season, Stansted 1st XI have successfully gone on to lose every match since! With just one win from six games, a significant turnaround will be needed if they are to climb out of the bottom two and move up the table.



Meanwhile, Dave Powter's 2nd XI are enjoying a much more successful campaign. Currently sitting just one point behind league leaders Harlow Town 3rd XI in Division 4 of the Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL), the side have built their success on a strong opening partnership between Adam Curtis and Ryan Cope. Curtis's unbeaten 103 against North Weald 2nd XI was a standout performance, and the reliable opening pair have consistently provided the perfect platform for the free-scoring Oscar Clark and David Wheatley to build on. If the team can maintain this impressive form throughout the season, promotion to Division 3 looks a very realistic prospect.

Tickets for the Club's *End of Season Do* on 5th September are now available from the bar or contact Matt Cope on 07583 106408. Further details in the August Link.

Emiel Pronk
Tel: 07429 058203
Email: emiel.pronk@icloud.com

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Bowls Club	David Danby Tel: 07799 722948 Email: daviddanby30@gmail.com	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07368 809138 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geofflay.22@gmail.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Cub Scouts (Tue) Age 8-10½	Huskies Jerry O'Connor stanstedhuskies@gmail.com (Thu) Bulldogs Hazel Crundwell 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs@gmail.com	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted is Well Read	Diana Griffin Tel: 813056 Email: stanstediswell_read@gmail.com
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Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 07485 452333 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
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Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		
Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		

Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like your organisation to be added please let us know by emailing editor@stanstedlink.org.uk.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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