

# Stansted Mountfitchet

# The Link





# RENOVATE

✉ enquiries@renovateinteriors.com  
☎ 07747 572013  
🌐 www.renovateinteriors.com

- ✓ Kitchen installs
- ✓ Bathrooms & plumbing
- ✓ Electrics
- ✓ Decorating
- ✓ Extensions
- ✓ Complete renovations



Let's Build Your Dream Home.

## DT Bedroom & Kitchen Design

Bedrooms • Kitchens • Studios

### BESPOKE FITTED UNITS



Bedrooms • Kitchens • Home Offices  
Under Stairs • Playrooms • Bars  
Utility Rooms • Radiator Covers  
**High Quality Service**

For a planning visit and free quotation please contact:

**Darryl Trigg: 07765 257200**

Email: [darryl.trigg@dtbedrooms.co.uk](mailto:darryl.trigg@dtbedrooms.co.uk)

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

## Daniel Robinson & Sons

*Your Local*

### Independent Family Funeral Directors

**Friendly, supportive & professional service at your time of need**

**Prepaid funeral planning or free recording of your Funeral Wishes**

**Chauffeur driven funeral fleet**

**Excellent facilities in the local community**

**79/81 South Street  
Bishop's Stortford  
CM23 3AL  
01279 655477**

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

## CLEAR OVENS

Oven Cleaning Specialists

**01279 89 89 96**

*we accept cards!*

Make your oven look showroom fresh with a professional clean from **Clear Ovens**. Our fully insured expert technicians will make it shine like new.



Covering Sawbridgeworth, Harlow Epping, Great Dunmow, Braintree, Stansed, Bishop's Stortford and surrounding areas.

**01279 89 89 96** or visit us online at [www.clearovens.co.uk](http://www.clearovens.co.uk)

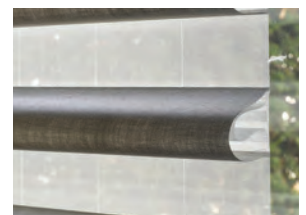
The difference is clear

# STORT BLINDS

INDIVIDUAL STYLE

YOUR LOCAL BLIND AND SHUTTER SUPPLIER

BLINDS | SHUTTERS | AWNINGS



## CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

[www.stortblinds.co.uk](http://www.stortblinds.co.uk) | Tel:01279 504121

## D BONNEY & SONS MANUDEN MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERS

MOT Testing • TRW Brake Centre  
All makes Serviced including 4 Wheel Drives  
Diagnostic and Fault Finding  
Welding and Chassis Repairs  
Selection of Used Cars • Calor Gas Stockist  
Guaranteed Workmanship

*We help YOU the motorist with a cheaper labour rate  
Free collection and delivery in local area*

**Please call Malc, Neil or Craig on  
01279 813315 or 815946**

**34 The Street, Manuden CM23 1DQ**

## Front Cover

### Stansted Bowls Club

by David Webster

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

# The Link

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

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

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

#### Editor

Elizabeth Oakley  
07950 364509  
[editor@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk)

#### Advertising

Mike and Marion Dyer  
01279 814059  
[adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk)

#### Distribution Queries

David Horton  
01279 813680  
[distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk)

#### Treasurer and Company Secretary

Alan Wheeler  
01279 813745  
[accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk)

#### Directors

Mike Dyer (Chairman)  
Yvonne Ayres  
Susan Bone  
Catherine Dean  
Marion Dyer  
Sarah Ludlow-Elston  
Elizabeth Oakley

**Photographic Consultant** Paul Burt

## CONTENTS

<b>Churches</b>	Stansted Free Church	15	<b>Advertising</b>	Calling New Advertisers	33
	Stansted Quaker Meeting	15		Index to Advertisers	36
	St John's Church	14		Stansted Business Forum	17
	St Theresa's Catholic Church	14	<b>Village Events</b>	What's On in June	5
	Thought for the Month	14	<b>Fun Time</b>	Guess the Object 6	28
<b>Children,</b>	Birchanger School	19		Pot Luck Quiz 4	4
<b>Youth and</b>	Daisy May Farm	3		Pot Luck Quiz 4 Answers	28
<b>Families</b>	Fun Place	4	<b>Health,</b>	Brain Training	31
	Scouts	34	<b>Wellbeing and</b>	Human Roots	25
	St Mary's School	28	<b>Environment</b>	Recycling	25
<b>Clubs and</b>	Directory of Clubs and Organisations	35		Sustainable Stansted	34
<b>Community</b>	Huw Johnson Club	4	<b>Features</b>	Blacksmiths Revisited	6
	Newport Flower Club	13		Duck Doodles	30
	RSPB	31		Editorial	2
	Stansted Evening W I	11		Hundred Parishes	15
	Stansted is Well Read	3		In the Garden	30
	Stansted Mountfitchet History Society	28		Neighbour from Helling continued	29
	Stansted Mountfitchet u3a	19	<b>Fundraising</b>	Stansted People Christine and Bill Stiles	9
	The Arts Society Bishop's Stortford	4		All Saints Exhibition	7
	The Place on the Hill	9		Music in the Park	27
	Touchpoint	17	<b>Sports</b>	St Clare Hospice	25
	Ugley W I	27		St John's 300 Club	19
<b>Local</b>	Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve	7		Wear Mauve for Grove	13
<b>Roundup</b>	Birchanger Beer Festival	32		Stansted Bowls Club	33
	Gardens of Easton Lodge	32		Stansted Cricket Club	33
	Hatfield Forest	2		Stansted Hall Cricket Club	32
	Local Bus times	31		Stansted Tennis Club	33
	Stansted in Bloom	27	<b>The Arts</b>	Newport Art Exhibition	6
	Stansted Library	11		Saffron Walden Choral Society	2
	Stansted Down Miniature Railway	3		Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra	7
	Stansted Windmill	34		South Mill Arts	11
	Uttlesford Big Green Day	2		Thaxted Festival	17
<b>Local Council</b>	Stansted Network	20-23		Water Lane Theatre	13

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JULY ISSUE

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

**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.  
**Stansted network** is compiled and financed by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. Stansted Link is printed by Sudbury Print.Group.



## EDITORIAL



In April, Stansted Bowls Club held a highly successful gala, and the front cover picture was taken towards the end of the day. It shows the winners, David and Deb Hunt from Havers Lane Bowls Club, with the Stansted Club captain Stephen Hill. Many thanks to David Webster for taking the picture and to David Danby for sending it to us.

I would like to apologise on behalf of The Link team for any distress caused to the Crisp family for the final paragraph of the Blacksmiths article in the May issue. You will be pleased to know that the old forge was in fact restored several years ago by Vernon Crisp, and you can read all about it on page 6. The before and after photos are amazing.

We are happy to welcome our young artist Duck Doodles and her lovely pictures again and you can see them on page 30. I would like to encourage more young people to submit articles, artwork or photos.

You may notice that this month's Link is rather larger than the slim May publication; that one had 13 pages of news and this one has 21. We are very grateful to those of you who submitted articles and photographs to make this such a bumper issue. The submissions have come from an incredible variety of interest groups; thank you all so very much.

Ed



## HATFIELD FOREST

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest)

As we move into the summer, the dawn chorus that has been echoing through the trees here has begun to quieten down, as the birds are pairing up. The butterflies are beginning to increase, along with our general insect count. Look out for the spectacular Red Poll cattle which have returned to the forest and be sure to keep your dogs on a lead when walking nearby. Whilst enjoying your walk, if you come across a diversion, please follow it to help us to prevent further erosion and discover a new route.



June sees the start of our Summer Season open air theatrical productions. On **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June** 7.00pm-9.15pm join The Lord Chamberlain's Men for William Shakespeare's classic play *Othello*, one of the most captivating and thrilling plays ever written. Tickets are £20 and further information can be found on our website. Look for upcoming events; if you click the option *see all events* you will see details of our productions in June, July and August. Booking is essential.

Hannah Underwood  
Assistant Business Services Co-ordinator  
Tel: 870678

Email: [hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk)



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

### Heaven and Earth

This is a rich and varied programme of contemplative sacred music. The choir will be performing on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm in Saffron Hall, conductor Quintin Beer accompanied by Richard Carr on the organ, Alastair Penman on saxophone and Cameron Smith on cello. The programme includes extracts from Rachmaninov's choral masterpiece *All Night Vigil*, a profoundly moving and meditative work in which the composer combines his distinctive harmonies with ancient Orthodox chants; Whitbourn's critically acclaimed *Son of God Mass*, celebrated for its evocative soundscape, interweaving the contemporary sounds of a saxophone with melodic liturgical voices; and Tavener's haunting *Song for Athene* brings together texts from Orthodox funeral services with modified excerpts from Shakespeare, which became one of his best-known pieces after it was played at Princess Diana's funeral in 1997. A further highlight is Karl Jenkins' enduringly popular *Benedictus* from *The Armed Man*, voted Britain's favourite classical piece in the 2026 Classic FM Hall of Fame. Tickets: £16.00-£21.00, under 25s £8.50-£11.00 from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or tel 0845 548 7650.



Sarah Ludlow-Elston

## UTTLESFORD BIG GREEN FESTIVAL

### Family Nature Day

As part of this Festival, Essex Wildlife Trust are putting on a family nature day on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** 10.00am-3.00pm at West Wood near Thaxted. Activities will include bird and butterfly safaris as well as wildlife crafts. Parking will be available at Westwood Montessori, Springs Yard, Little Sampford CB10 2SA. There will be no refreshments available, but people are welcome to sit and eat their own food if they wish. There are toilets at the school. Entry is free. For further information, please contact John Lockton email: [cllrjohnlockton@gmail.com](mailto:cllrjohnlockton@gmail.com).

John Welham

## STANSTED DOWN MINIATURE RAILWAY

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

### Miniature railway moves to Stansted

For almost 30 years the Saffron Walden and District Society of Model Engineers (SWDSME) operated a miniature (5 and 7¼" gauge) railway at Audley End, next to the larger scale Audley End Railway (AER). Our long association with the AER came to an end a few years back and we eventually relocated to Down Farm on the outskirts of Stansted. With the completion of our 200m loop track, we are now open to the public as the Stansted Down Miniature Railway to give children of all ages the chance to ride behind live steam engines and enjoy the thrill and romance of the steam era. There is also the opportunity to ride behind a miniature traction engine or on a steam wagon and ride on a 100-year-old full sized steam car.



We have plenty of space for family members to picnic, while the steam or train enthusiasts enjoy themselves. We also serve refreshments including tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Entry and parking are free, you just pay for rides. We are open on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from April to October** 10.30am-4.00pm at Down Farm Stud, Elsenham Road, Stansted CM24 8ST. We are just before the motorway bridge going to towards Elsenham on the right-hand side, and it is signposted. The next open day is **20<sup>th</sup> June**. For further information please see our website or Facebook/groups/SWDSME.

Although we are a model engineering society, our members' interests range greatly from enthusiastic miniature steam engine makers to those interested in steam, trains, transport or bygone mechanical technologies. We are always looking for new members; you do not need to be an engineer. If you are interested in joining, please contact me or come to an open day and have a chat with a member over a cuppa to see what we are about.

Martin Berry  
Secretary

Email: [swdsme.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:swdsme.secretary@gmail.com)



## STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** at 8.00pm in The Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant, the untold stories of Jacob's four wives in biblical times, centred around the sacred red tent where women shared their secrets, wisdom, and experiences. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits whether you have read the book or not, as we will find plenty of other things to discuss.



Diana Griffin  
Tel: 813056

Email: [stanstediswellread@gmail.com](mailto:stanstediswellread@gmail.com)

## DAISY MAY'S FARM

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



Even with the changeable weather, our babies just keep on coming in all sorts of shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is that they are really cute! There is so much to do: hold the ducklings and chicks, bottle feed the orphans, meet the farm animals, free bouncy castle, cuddle the babies, arts and crafts, picnic areas, play area, ride the train (£2 per person), woodland walk and tasty homemade refreshments. Entry is only £6 and under 1s are free. We are open 9.00am-4.00pm weekdays, 10.00am-4.00pm weekends and there is no need to book. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN. Please note we do not take credit cards.



Be sure to bring your wellies. We are a working farm, run as a not-for-profit organisation and the money we raise by your visits ensures that our animals stay well fed and watered. This is a win, win situation; you have a lovely time seeing our animals and as a direct result, we can afford to ensure they are all well looked after. So, thank you! If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Want a different kind of holiday? Then come and camp on the farm and enjoy the great outdoors and our animals at the same time. Check our website for further information, sooner than later. As ever, thanks so much for your continued support.

Elaine Terry  
Tel: 07747 787973



## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We are a social club for adults with a learning disability which meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7.00pm, usually in St John's Church Hall, for a range of fun activities to bring people together. At our April meeting we took part in a great Zumba session with instructor Melle. The class was seated and everyone worked to their own ability meaning all members could take part. We certainly all had a good workout. In early May we held our Annual General Meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who stood for election to our Committee positions. As always, new members are welcome to come along and try the Club out; please get in touch to check the details of the next session. New volunteers to help us put on the activities and help transport members to and from the sessions are always very welcome too.

Ellen Brooks  
Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.com  
Tel: 07800 896516



## FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://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. Everyone is welcome and parents, grandparents, children and all ages drop in to this popular meeting place. Adults relax and chat with a tea or coffee and the children enjoy playing with the toys. Always popular are the pop-up tent, push-along-walkers, cars, other vehicles and a wide selection of 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](mailto:funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



The Arts  
Society  
Bishop's Stortford

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

Continuing our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the Arts Society Bishop's Stortford, our next meeting is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA) with coffee available from 10.00am.



Our speaker is Roger Mendham on the board game *Monopoly*, which is still one of the most popular and enduring board games. The lecture charts the evolution of the game and then we take a photographic journey around the locations based on the classic 1936 London version of the game. Expect some surprises as we explore the relationship between the various properties.

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 your car number at SMA reception. Our membership secretary, Sue Chapman, can be contacted by email: [info@tasbs.org.uk](mailto:info@tasbs.org.uk) or tel 508542. Please see our website for further information. Our Facebook page is Arts Society Bishop's Stortford.

Michael Fitch

## POT LUCK QUIZ 4

1. The Beatrix Potter character Miss Moppet is what animal?
2. Who was the first James Bond to follow Sean Connery?
3. Who was the voice of Princess Fiona in the Shrek movies?
4. Which pop star played Pontius Pilate in *The Last Temptation of Christ*?
5. The first marmalade factory opened in which British city?
6. What name is given to a female ferret?
7. Who was Prime Minister during the abdication of Edward VIII?
8. Pteronophobia is the fear of what?
9. Which was the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to host the Olympics?
10. Which ancient weapon appears on the flag of Barbados?

Dave Morson

Answers on page 28

## STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 2nd Jun

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

### *The Red Tent*

by Anita Diamant

The untold stories of Jacob's four wives in biblical times, centred around the sacred red tent where women shared their secrets, wisdom and experiences

All Welcome Tel 813056



## Green Waste Skip Dates

Sundays 1 - 5 pm

7th & 21st Jun

5th & 19th Jul

Lower Street Car Park



## SUSTAINABLE STANSTED BIG GREEN FESTIVAL

Energy Saving and Sustainability Open Day

10.30 am - 3.30 pm Sat 13th Jun

St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane

See the tech and ask the experts  
all free of charge

Cut energy bills and go clean energy

Entry free. Plenty of free parking

## WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

2	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
5	Fri	Stansted Business Forum	Kings Arms 7 - 9 am
7	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
7 & 21	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 1 - 5 pm
9	Tue	<b>Link copy due in today</b>	<b>before noon</b>
		The Arts Society BS	Southmill Arts 10.40 am
		RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Cntr 7.30 pm
11	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
13	Sat	Sustainable Stansted Day	St Theresa's Parish Cntr 10.30 am
14	Sun	Family Nature Day	West Wood Thaxted 10 am - 3 pm
		Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
17	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
		Newport Flower Club	Ugley Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
20	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		Model Railway Open Day	Down Farm 10.30 am - 4 pm
20 Sat/21 Sun		Newport Art Exhibition	Newport Village Hall 10 am - 4 pm
23	Tue	Lord Chamberlain's Men	Hatfield Forest 7 - 9.15 pm
27	Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 1.30 - 8 pm
		Water Lane Theatre	Football Club BS 2 pm
		Saffron Walden Choral	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
		Elsenham Farmers' Mkt	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
28	Sun	Water Lane Theatre	Northgate Sch BS 2 pm

## UTTLESFORD BIG GREEN FESTIVAL FAMILY NATURE DAY

10 am - 3 pm Sun 14th Jun

West Wood near Thaxted

Activities include bird and butterfly safaris as well as wildlife crafts

Parking at Westwood Montessori, Springs Yard, Little Sampford CB10 2SA

Bring your own refreshments

Toilets at the school ~ Entry Free

## THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE OPEN DAY

11 am - 5 pm Sun 14th Jun

(last entry 4 pm)

WWI Exhibits and Military Vehicles

Songs by Lancashire Belle

Refreshments

Tickets £7.50 on gate, £6 advance

Children free

from [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com)



2 pm Sat 27th Jun

Bishop's Stortford Football Club

2 pm Sun 28th Jun

Northgate Primary School, BS

### *The Comedy of Errors*

William Shakespeare

Tickets £10 plus booking fee from  
[ticketsource.com/waterlane](http://ticketsource.com/waterlane).



7.30 pm Sat 27th Jun

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Rachmaninov *All Night Vigil*

Whitbourn *Son of God Mass*

Tavener *Song for Athene*

Karl Jenkins *The Armed Man*

Tickets: Adults £16-£21, u25s half price  
from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com)



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

10 am - noon

Sat 20th Jun

Ugley Village Hall

Fruit & Veg ~ Eggs ~ Olive Oil  
Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb ~ Houseplants  
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam  
Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants  
Refillable Laundry and Edible Products  
Knitting and Needlework

Refreshments and Free Parking  
For info and future dates tel 814052

## Bentfield School PTA



1.30 - 8 pm Sat 27th Jun

Live music to suit all tastes

Tickets from the School Office,  
The Dog and Duck or Intercounty

£15 advance, £18 on the gate

Accompanied under 16s free

but still need a ticket

## NEWPORT ART GROUP

10 am - 4 pm

Sat 20th & Sun 21st Jun

Newport Village Hall

### ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Art to purchase  
Craft stalls, including jewellery

Admission free

Plenty of free parking

## THE SAFFRON WALDEN & DISTRICT SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS

Open Day

10.30 am - 4 pm Sun 20th Jun

Down Farm Stud, Elsenham Road,  
Stansted CM24 8ST

Enjoy a ride on the steam train  
Buy tea, coffee and home-made cakes  
or bring your own picnic

Entry and parking free, just pay for rides

## BLACKSMITHS REVISITED

In April Ken McDonald wrote a wonderful article for the Hundred Parishes Society about blacksmiths, and Audrey Rodgers continued the theme in May. This third article will be an update on the situation described by Audrey; our warm and sincere thanks to the Crisp family, Stuart and his niece Amélie Cooper, for the revised information and for the photographs. You will be pleased to read that Bedlow's premises and tools have been preserved.



Stuart's father, Vernon Crisp, bought the Wheelwrights Forge on Cambridge Road, previously known as Bedlow's Blacksmiths, in 1997. The Forge was painstakingly reconstructed by Vernon with Uttlesford Planning Department's approval to rebuild the premises. He had a deep respect for history and craftsmanship, and he ensured that the original character of the blacksmith's forge was retained wherever possible. The cartwheel, the anvil, and many of the original tools left behind at the time of sale were carefully preserved and remain in place to this day. Even after his passing, the Crisp family has continued to honour his legacy. The forge is not simply a structure; it is a testament to Vernon's passion for restoration and his lifelong respect for historic artefacts. Before the reconstruction, the forge was overgrown with ivy, as you can see in the photo above.



Vernon's wife Pauline now lives in the home which her loving and devoted husband rebuilt with his own hands. It is

filled with memories, care, and the results of years of hard work. The old, restored forge is behind the main house; the renovations have been incredible, as evidenced by the picture opposite.

Ed

## NEWPORT ART GROUP

### Annual Exhibition

The Group consists of about 50 artists from parts of Suffolk, West Essex and East Herts who meet weekly to paint, discuss art and support each other. We are holding an exhibition on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** 10.00am-4.00pm in Newport Village Hall, Station Road, Newport CB11 3PL. Admission is free and there is ample free parking. Several of the local artists are well-respected and well-known, so this exhibition is a great chance to snap up a piece of their art and discover new talent!

This will be the 29<sup>th</sup> year that the exhibition has been staged, and it always seems to produce new and exciting paintings to delight the eye. It is a large, well-lit exhibition, and visitors can expect to see over 200 original framed and unframed artworks, all at reasonable prices. There will be many different styles on show plus a wide variety of media: incredible watercolours, imaginative oils, delightful acrylics and joyful pastels. The range of unframed paintings offer visitors an opportunity to pick up original art at very modest prices and are well worth a browse.



In addition to all the lovely art on show, there will be some stalls selling a wide range of crafts including jewellery; definitely worth checking out. Newport Primary School is presenting a display of pupils' work. Our exhibition is known not only for the art but also for its friendliness, so do linger and chat with artists and helpers. Why not meet up at the exhibition with your friends? There are delicious refreshments available with freshly made sandwiches and home-made cakes.

Doug Copeland  
Email: [dougjcopeland@icloud.com](mailto:dougjcopeland@icloud.com)



## AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

[www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/aubrey-buxton](http://www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/aubrey-buxton)

During spring we take a break from working in our reserves so that we don't disturb the wildlife. This is a busy time for the birds as they establish territories, find mates, build nests and then raise young. That is why we minimise our activities and ask people and their dogs to stick to the paths.

Breeding partners are found and territories maintained by singing. It is somewhat surprising to realise that the beautiful bird song we hear is actually a declaration of ownership of an area and a warning for other competing birds to keep out.

Two of the most distinctive songs currently in the wood are made by the chiffchaff and the blackcap. The chiffchaff sings its name repeatedly and to be honest it is not the most interesting song, but it does allow you to find the bird and get a good view through binoculars.

The blackcap song on the other hand is sweet and melodic with a variety of rich clear notes. It is not difficult to see the male blackcap, but it is usually less easy to see the female who actually has a brown cap rather than the black one on the male bird. Both these species used to be regarded as summer visitors, but now with our warmer winters many choose to stay with us all year.



Taking time to look for evidence of insect activity can also be rewarding. We found the gall pictured above on bramble. It shows exit holes where some 50 gall wasps have emerged, all from a small gall just 5cm long.

John Welham  
Warden

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



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

### Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The orchestra's 70<sup>th</sup> year celebrates the past but also looks to the future. The first performance of a new commission from talented local composer Sarah Cattley opens the concert. Then follows Kabalevsky's youthful *Violin Concerto*, played by rising star and winner of the 2025 Barker Bursary, 11-year-old Alice Cumberbatch. Alice started learning in Cambridge with Celia Cobb when she was aged 3; from the age of 7, she was taught by Elizabeth Faidley from New York. Since 2022, Alice has studied with Juliet Hughes-Rees at the Royal College of Music Junior Department.

The second half of the concert features Shostakovich's monumental *10th Symphony*. Written in 1953, the year of Stalin's death, Shostakovich vividly characterises life under the dictator, but finishes with a positive vision of the future.

Tickets: adults £18 and £21, 18-25yrs £11, under 18s £6 are available from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or tel 0845 548 7650.



Marion Dyer



### ART AND CERAMICS EXHIBITION



[www.thefivechurches.co.uk/all-saints-church-little-canfield](http://www.thefivechurches.co.uk/all-saints-church-little-canfield)

This year's exhibition is on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** 10.00am-4.00pm at All Saints Church, Little Canfield CO6 1LS and submissions for the main exhibition and entries from talented local children are welcome. We also offer a series of engaging, hands-on art activities for visitors of all abilities, designed to inspire creativity and celebrate the joy of making art within our community. Join our clay-making workshop to explore sculptural creativity, take part in a painting session to experiment with colour and expression, or develop your observational skills in our guided figure drawing workshop. Dates are **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** *Make an Ice Cream*, **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** *Paint a Beach Scene*, **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** *Drawing with a Life Model*. All workshops start at 7.00pm. All proceeds go to church funds. To book, visit [www.carolineclarkartist.com/allsaintschurhexhibition](http://www.carolineclarkartist.com/allsaintschurhexhibition).



### AS PART OF THE BIG GREEN FESTIVAL SUSTAINABLE STANSTED INVITES YOU TO

Cut your energy bills and go clean energy

Many Industry Experts on hand

See the tech and ask the experts all free of charge

10.30 am - 3.30 pm Saturday 13th June

St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane

Free entry. Plenty of free parking




**Our services:**  
All plumbing and heating works including

- Bathroom refurbishments
- Boiler installations
- Boiler services and breakdowns
- Water Softeners

Based in Bishop's Stortford and surrounding areas  
Blair@bgplumbing-heating.uk  
07584165668




**Gary Taylor**  
45 Years Experience - Fully insured  
Internal And External Work | Residential And Commercial Properties



**Rated 5★ on Facebook and Google**  
Call For A Free Quote On **07931 663 588**  
www.taylors-decorating.co.uk

**BESPOKE ARCHITECTURE**  
ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING SERVICES:

- Planning Drawings
- Building Regulation Drawings
- General Planning Advice
- Layout Design
- Commercial Design
- and lots more

Please contact me on the below for a free consultation  
EMAIL: danny@ds-designs.co.uk  
TEL: 07738375496




**Lesley Anne PAINTING**  
QUALITY GUARANTEED

- Interior & Exterior
- From one room to a complete house
- Competitive rates and references

**Tel: 01279 897904 or 07973 364394**  
Email: lesleyprorowse@aol.com



**A. WRIGHT BUILDERS**  
EXTENSIONS • CONVERSIONS  
ALTERATIONS  
ALL SMALL WORKS UNDERTAKEN

Orchard House, 5 Brewery Lane, Stansted CM24 8LB  
Tel 01279 815759 Mobile 07974 989938

**T. F. PLASTERING LTD**  
All aspects undertaken including:

- Skimming • Rendering • Coving

Over 20 yrs experience  
High standard of work. Fully insured.  
For a free estimate call Terry  
Home 01279 416311 Mobile 07738 278036

**N & J Westwood BUILDING SERVICES**

- Barn & Garage Conversions
- Renovations & Extensions
- Brickwork & Plastering
- Fencing & Patios



For a free quote and advice please contact John  
07886 509 722 | info@nandjwestwood.co.uk  
www.nandjwestwood.co.uk

**This could be YOUR ad here**  
**Only £100 for 4 issues**  
**Other sizes available**

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising)  
or call Marion & Mike on 814059  
Email: [adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk)

**Thinking of doing some building work?**  
Uttlesford Building Control are your locally based Inspectors, we know all the local builders, surveyors and ground conditions.

**We are here to help!**  
Please contact us for pre-application advice - call before 10am to arrange a same day inspection.  
T 01799 510453  
E [building@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:building@uttlesford.gov.uk)




Under pressure and need a helping hand?  
**Look no further!**  
Witts End provides PA, Virtual Assistant business support, lifestyle support to busy professionals, small businesses  
Over 25 years PA, Secretarial, Administrative experience  
Please contact Philippa Pearson



**Website: [www.wittsendbusinessservices.co.uk](http://www.wittsendbusinessservices.co.uk)**  
**Email: [Hello@wittsendbusinessservices.co.uk](mailto:Hello@wittsendbusinessservices.co.uk)**

## STANSTED PEOPLE

### CHRISTINE AND BILL STILES

One of the great joys about being Editor of this publication is the chance to meet a variety of local residents. Some of you may recall that Christine and Bill featured in *The Link* in July 2001, and we welcome them back after 25 years. Naturally their lives have changed in the intervening time, but they continue to be very involved in the local community and greatly enhance it by their amazing charity work. The Stiles have lived in Stansted for 49 years, so they know a great many other residents of our village.



Bill was brought up in Enfield. He worked for Thorn EMI in manufacturing as a chartered engineer; this job came to an end when he was in his mid-fifties, and he took on consultancy work for several years subsequently. Christine trained as a nurse at UCH and worked for three years in the Amazon running a health clinic and health education programme in the jungle. She learned to speak fluent Portuguese. She and Bill married in 1971. Christine gave up work while having children but returned in 1989, to Herts and Essex hospital then Princess Alexandra Hospital where she was Senior Sister of the Alexandra Day Unit. She retired in the early 2002s, after a career which she loved and which gave her a great deal of satisfaction.

Christine and Bill have three children, Rebecca, Alex and Lucy; all three went to St Mary's Primary School then Bishop's Stortford schools, followed by higher education. Rebecca lives in Rochford and has two children and is married to Andy, a civil engineer. She is Administrative and Teacher Support in a large grammar school in Southend and a school governor. Alex, an investment manager in London, spent some time in Tokyo where he married his wife Nao and they also have two children, the eldest of whom was born in Japan 19 years ago. Nao is a violinist and trained at the Guildhall School of Music. Lucy spent many years as a primary school teacher, which included three years in Nigeria as a teacher trainer, and now works at national arts organisations managing creative projects for schools, young people and teachers.

Bill was a member of Uttlesford District Council for eight years and served for 16 years in our Parish Council, where he was involved in the restoration of the village fountain in time for Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. He organised a map showing all the footpaths in the parish and he was involved in updating a little booklet entitled *Saunters Round Stansted*. As the Council's footpath representative, he has walked hundreds of miles since

2008 on the network of public footpaths and written over 90 reports for the Open Space Committee; he continues to explore these paths to this day. Bill very much enjoyed his Parish Council work; he urges younger residents to give it a try. He recently rejoined the St John's Parochial Church Council after a gap of over 40 years! He is the Honorary Treasurer of the Huw Johnson Club; Christine has previously helped with this Club, escorting members to events. She used to be much involved with Helpline, until its closure quite recently. She helped at the Day Centre until Covid lockdown, and she was on the committee of the Uttlesford branch of the Red Cross as well. Both she and Bill are members of u3a and St John's Church.

What many readers will be familiar with is the amazing fundraising work organised by Christine and Bill in their stunning home and garden. As a background to their work: Christine retired in 2002 and in that year she lost two lifelong friends to cancer. Since then, they have held annual coffee mornings raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, always held on the last Friday in September, which is their 25<sup>th</sup> this year. Details of this event will be given in this publication later in the year. Stansted punches above its weight with regard to fundraising, and this coffee morning is a prize example: in 2024 £700 was raised and this figure grew to £835 in 2025 and to date in total over £12,000.

I am not sure how they find the time, but Christine and Bill travel a great deal; they have visited the USA, India, China and much of continental Europe and enjoy cruises. Their favourite destination is Japan. When their son Alex used to live there his parents were able to stay with him and his wife Nao. The Stiles praise Japan for the fact that everything seems to work efficiently and the country is very clean. In addition, Japanese people are unfailingly polite and helpful. It was so good to meet this wonderful couple, and I wish them all the best for their future travels, local work and fundraising.

Ed



### THE PLACE ON THE HILL

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

Summer is nearly here, 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](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



Join us for  
our next  
event



Mountfitchet House care home,  
Stansted

## Fish and chip Friday

Second Friday of each month, at 1pm

A wonderful opportunity for individuals who are 65 and over to make friends and enjoy a delicious dementia friendly fish and chips meal, prepared by our Head Chef.

Trusted to care.



To attend please call **01279 743 348**  
or email [susan.whitaker@careuk.com](mailto:susan.whitaker@careuk.com)



## Hargrave House

Where living well comes naturally

Residential Care | Respite Care | Dementia Care

Situated in the charming, picturesque village of Stansted Mountfitchet, Hargrave House is an exceptional residential and dementia care home offering compassionate care on a long and short term basis.

-  24-hour staffing and emergency call facilities
-  Specialist dementia care wing
-  Passionate and experienced team
-  Long term and respite stay residence
-  Beautiful landscaped gardens

-  Delicious and varied meals, freshly prepared on site
-  Extensive programme of activities
-  A choice of communal areas including a television lounge
-  Personal laundry service
-  On site hairdressing, chiropody and optician visits



### We would love to talk to you...

-  103 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8BY
-  01279 817 272
-  [hargrave.manager@birchstonecare.co.uk](mailto:hargrave.manager@birchstonecare.co.uk)
-  [birchstonecare.co.uk](http://birchstonecare.co.uk)



## JOIN OUR TEAM

- We are a small, family-run care company seeking friendly, caring and reliable individuals to join our expanding team.
- Our aim is to make a real difference to the lives of our clients.
- If you are looking for a truly rewarding career working with the elderly, get in touch via email or phone.
- No experience needed, as full training is provided.
- Full-time or part-time hours available



PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND SUPPORT  
TO LIVE YOUR LIFE, YOUR WAY.





THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Sierra Homecare

HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AS A

Top 20 Rated  
Home Care Provider in  
East of England




Sierra Homecare is a family run, independent quality home care provider.

Providing a comprehensive range of support services to older people in their own homes, within Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Stansted and surrounding areas.

Sierra Homecare

01279 501678

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



## STANSTED LIBRARY

www.libraries.essex.gov.uk

Here are some of the regular events going on at Stansted library.

### Informal Stroke Support Group

- A safe space to share your stroke experiences over a free cup of tea or coffee and cake
- Carers, family and friends are most welcome
- Every Monday 10.00am-noon; please drop in when you can.

### Also:

- UCAN Volunteer Charity 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month
- Baby and Rhyme Time Tuesdays 10.30am-11.00am
- Knit and Natter Tuesdays 11.30-1.00pm with free tea, coffee and biscuits
- An exhibition from Saffron Walden Museum showcasing their artefacts
- IT Support drop in Thursdays 2.00pm-4.00pm
- Local Author events
- We have children's colouring sheets and a display board for their work.

We have a local information noticeboard, public computers, scanner, printing and photocopying facilities. We welcome pre-arranged class, nursery, playgroup, Brownie and Cub visits.

Joining your library is easy. You can join online or in person. We just need some photo ID and proof of address. Your library card gives you the ability to borrow up to 14 items over a three-week period, use the audio and eBook Borrow Box apps, sign up to Linked-In courses online, and download and listen to music on the Freegal app. We have an extensive catalogue where you can order books online and have them delivered to us at Stansted. There is a charge of £1.15 per item for adult books. Children's and concessionary cards are exempt from these charges. For local history buffs, we have free access to *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*. We are a friendly and safe space and we look forward to seeing you soon.



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

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



For our April meeting we welcomed Sarah Harrison as our speaker. She told us *You couldn't make it up*. She left us enthralled with stories of her life as an author, the books she had written and stories of things that make us mad in supermarkets, tights that never fit, titanium hips and dating for the older generation. She read us some of the poems she had written which were very amusing. It was a very entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint, when our speaker will be Karl Lumbers whose subject is *The Trinity Lighthouse Story*. The competition is something from the seaside. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr  
Tel: 07743 549241



www.southmillarts.co.uk

### Discover what's on this June

The Best in Comedy returns on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** with a top line-up featuring the hilarious Marcus Brigstocke, Jake Lambert, Lou Conran and Michael Akadiri. Comedian James Acaster unleashes his infectious energy to the cinema screen on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** with *James Acaster: Cinemagoers Welcome*. Avalon Comedy's Edinburgh Preview night returns on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** with the amazing Ahir Shah and James Trickey.

Watch the latest blockbusters and National Theatre Live on our screen this June. *NT Live: The Playboy of the Western World* is on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>**. Leonardo DiCaprio stars in *One Battle After Another* on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>**, and Ryan Gosling wakes up alone on a spaceship in *Project Hail Mary* on the same dates. Be sure to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Riverdance* on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**. Join us to kick off the first England game of the Men's World Cup on our big screen. Offering a welcoming environment for friends and family, the game will be broadcast live in our auditorium. There will be additional screens in the theatre lounge and bar so you will not miss a single goal. Entry is free, but spaces are limited, so be sure to book your slot in advance.



National treasure, Craig Revel Horwood, joins us on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** with his show *Craig Revel Horwood: Revelations - Songs Boys Don't Sing*. Expect dancing, tales from *Strictly Come Dancing*, songs, plenty of laughs and an unexpected cookery demonstration. Meet and greet tickets are available. Back by popular demand, *Coldplace - Coldplay Tribute* returns on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**. For more information please see our website.

Seren Stephen  
Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk



**Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club**  
**Your Friendly Community Hub!**



- Live Music Nights
- BT and Sky Sports
- Darts, Snooker and Pool
- Superb Jukebox
- Great Selection of Drinks
- Fully Air-Conditioned
- Fantastic Prices
- Available for Social Events

**A warm welcome awaits you!**

**Membership just £20 per year**  
**(plus initial £5 administration payment)**

Pop in for a form or visit

[www.smsc.uk.com](http://www.smsc.uk.com)

Come and relax in our friendly atmosphere!

**Tel 01279 812992**



**R. Handford & Co.**  
**Podiatry Limited**

**Bishop's Stortford**

- ◆ Orthotics
- ◆ Diabetic Foot Care
- ◆ Routine Treatment
- ◆ Saturday Appointments

**H.C.P.C. Registered**

**16 Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford**

**01279 652249 info@feet.org.uk**  
**www.feet.org.uk**



**FREE NHS Hearing Aid**  
**Maintenance Service**

2nd Monday of each month 10 am - noon  
at Touchpoint, Crafton Green **by appointment only**

- **Have your NHS hearing aid cleaned & re-tubed**
- **Receive help and advice**

[www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk](http://www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk) Tel 01245 496347

Registered Charity 1113498 Company Limited by Guarantee Registered no 5664873

**CHIROPODIST**

**Mrs Julie Golden**

Est. 1994

HPC Registered ~ State Registered

Home Visiting Practice

Tel: **01279 873492** Mob: **07916 075451**

**A professional service at a competitive price**



**STANSTED FREE CHURCH HALL**

**Chapel Hill CM24 8AG**

One-off and regular  
daytime and evening hire available  
Fully fitted kitchen • Competitive prices  
Comfortable • Fully Carpeted • Free Parking

**Please call Marion Dyer on 01279 814059**

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

**Stansted Quaker Meeting House**

71 Chapel Hill CM24 8AE



Available to hire for classes,  
clubs and organisations

Main hall and smaller room plus kitchen for drinks, piano,  
peaceful garden, screen, hearing loop, accessible toilet, ramp.  
Public parking opposite. Competitive rates

**Please contact Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207**

**Email: [yvonne.estop@outlook.com](mailto:yvonne.estop@outlook.com)**



**ST JOHN'S HALL**

Large hall available on a regular basis  
or for one-off parties and other events  
Fully fitted kitchen • Competitive prices

*Central village location with some parking on site*

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

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

**Ugley Village Hall**

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

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

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



**UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY TRAVEL**

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

We provide affordable, accessible transport to hospital  
appointments for those over 60, disabled, or rurally isolated  
We also offer group travel for Care Homes, Educational Trips,  
Day Centres and Community Groups

**Call 01371 875787 Monday to Friday 9 am - 1 pm**

*please leave a message outside of these times or*

**email: [info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org](mailto:info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org)**

**This could be YOUR ad here**  
**Only £100 for 4 issues**  
**Other sizes available**

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising)  
or call Marion & Mike on 814059  
**Email: [adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk)**

## NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

While writing this article we are enjoying the most beautiful sunny weather. The Club had its AGM in April and, at the time of writing, we are waiting to welcome demonstrator Julie Richardson from the Isle of Wight in May.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April some of the Club members attended the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) East of England Area Day in Mildenhall. In the morning we were educated and entertained by Martyn Davey, the head grower from *Nurtured* in Norfolk. The business grows edible flowers used primarily by chefs in their Michelin Star restaurants for flavouring and decorating their dishes. Who knew you could eat so many! In the afternoon Jo Purdy, a floral designer and national demonstrator, all the way from Scarborough, treated us to her *Botanical Gallery* inspired by artists such as Van Gogh, Monet and Andy Goldsworthy. Jo, originally a social worker, enrolled onto a Floristry degree course over 20 years ago and has never looked back. It was a magical day. The photo below shows one of her creations.



If you would like to enjoy events like this, please visit us at one of our meetings for a taster or email us for more details and upcoming dates. Our next Club demonstration will be on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June** 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall. We will be welcoming Naomi Wells and her title *Miss Cullimore*. For more information, please email us or follow us on Facebook, Ugley Bunch Flower Club.

Sandra Honour  
Programme Secretary  
Email: [ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com)



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

We are performing an on-tour picnic production of *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare. This is one of the Bard's most farcical comedies, with slapstick and mistaken identity. There will be four performances: Bishop's Stortford Football Club on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June**, Northgate Primary School, Bishop's Stortford on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**, The Gibberd Gardens, Harlow on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July**, and Birchanger Sports and Social Club on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. All shows commence at 2.00pm.

For all venues, you are welcome to bring your own food, blankets and chairs. You may bring drinks to the Northgate School and Gibberd Gardens shows, but drinks must be purchased from the bar at the Football Club and Birchanger Sports and Social Club. Tickets: £10 plus booking fee available from [ticketsource.com/waterlane](http://ticketsource.com/waterlane). For more details please see our website. The event is in support of Isabel Hospice.

Penny Reeves



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

### Wear Mauve for Grove

This year we are asking you and our amazing community to wear mauve during *Learning Disability Week* which runs from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June to help us turn the world purple in support of Grove Cottage, which serves people with learning disabilities and complex additional needs. Learning Disability Week raises awareness, challenges stigmas and celebrates the lives of people with learning disabilities, ensuring people are heard and valued. Whether you wear purple clothes, hats, hair accessories, socks, or anything else you can find at home, the more purple, the better. Take lots of photos of your purple fun and either send to us so we can celebrate your efforts on our social media pages or post on your own. Tag Grove Cottage and use *#WearMauveForGrove Why It Matters*. Every purple outfit, every fun event, every donation makes a real difference.



Let us come together to spread awareness, raise funds, and celebrate our incredible community. Together we can make the lives of Grove Cottage members brighter, one purple moment at a time. It costs Grove Cottage nearly £600,000 every year to run our vital services and 75% of this needs to be raised through our fundraising activities. Please consider making a donation; you can donate through *Just Giving* or send a cheque payable to *Bishop's Stortford Mencap* to Grove Cottage, 151 London Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JX.

Alison Cameron  
Tel: 651908  
Email: [fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org](mailto:fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org)

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

June is often called the gateway of summer. The days are at their longest, the air is filled with the scent of blooming life, and the earth seems to pulse with energy. In the Christian calendar, this season follows the great celebrations of Easter and Pentecost, moving us into Ordinary Time.

Yet there is nothing ordinary about God's creation in June. This is a month of growth. In our gardens, seeds that were hidden in the dark earth are now reaching toward the sun. This is a beautiful metaphor for the spiritual life. Jesus often spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven in agricultural terms, mustard seeds, sowers, and harvests, reminding us that faith is not a static thing, but a living, breathing process.

June invites us to step outside and witness the *theatre of God's glory*, as John Calvin called it. In the rush of end-of-school activities and summer planning, we are called to pause and notice the creator's hand at work around us. In the gospel of John, Jesus says *I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.* This month, let us ask ourselves: *Where is God (that divine gardener!) pruning me so that I might bear more fruit?* Maybe it involves removing things that drain spiritual energy or hinder growth, such as bad habits or wrong priorities. Growth can be quiet and slow, often invisible to the naked eye until the bloom appears. May this be a season of stretching toward the light, rooted in love, and flourishing in grace.

Kathy West  
Pastoral Assistant  
St John's Church



### ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

**Priest in Charge**     Vacant

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

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

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

**Services**             Together on Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) 9.30am;  
                                 Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
                                 9.30am.

**Parish Priest**             Fr Clement Orango  
                                 Tel: 814349  
                                 Email: [frclementorango@brcdt.org](mailto:frclementorango@brcdt.org)

**Parish Administrator**     Tel: 816889  
                                 Email: [stansted@brcdt.org](mailto:stansted@brcdt.org)

**Masses:**  
**Saturday**             5.15pm-5.45pm Confessions  
                                 6.00pm Mass

**Sunday**                8.30am Mass  
                                 10.00am Mass

**Wednesday**        12.30pm Mass

**Baptisms:**            by appointment

### From St John's Registers

**Funeral**  
21<sup>st</sup> April             Barbara Helen Harrington, age 93.  
                                 Service in St John's, burial in Parish  
                                 Cemetery.





## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC  
Chapel Hill

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

- Minister** Rev'd Gill Hulme  
Tel: 504157  
Email: [gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk](mailto:gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk)
- Secretary** Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579  
Email: [catherine@standedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:catherine@standedfreechurch.org.uk)
- Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@standedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@standedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for May

- 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Len Ward  
14<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion  
21<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Heather Gale  
28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Janet Tollington

Our minister, Rev'd Gill Hulme is retiring in July and her last service with us is on 14<sup>th</sup> June. We will very much miss her ministry to us over the last five years and wish her well in Scotland, where she is moving to be nearer her daughter.



Marion Dyer



## STANSTED QUAKERS

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE

[www.standed.quakermeeting.org](http://www.standed.quakermeeting.org)

- Contact** Sue Moloney Tel: 07759 532115  
Email: [suemol@uwclub.net](mailto:suemol@uwclub.net)
- Lettings** Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207  
Email: [yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto:yvonne-wood@outlook.com)

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

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



## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

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

Although the Society is not a religious organisation, we encourage visits to parish churches as they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Inside, you may find images of angels in some form or another. These winged creatures are considered to be messengers of God. They also represent goodness, with a promise of heaven if you live a good life. Angels in churches are depicted in paintings, on stained-glass windows, suspended from ceilings, carved into corbels that support roof timbers or on poppyheads at the end of pews.

Clavering church displays several angels in its medieval glass windows as well as a series of wooden angels suspended from the rafters; they have feathers all over, including on their legs.

It is easy to miss Clavering's angels, but not those at Furneux Pelham. Their bright colours come from a repaint in the 1960s. Some play a lute and others hold a shield with a family crest, presumably of their sponsor. Furneux Pelham also has a series of angels on windows that were painted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by renowned artists William Morris and Edward Byrne-Jones.



Radwinter has a series of stained-glass windows with angels featuring prominently. At Elmdon, one peeps out from under the lectern from which the vicar preaches. In Linton, one of the carved poppyheads depicts a scribe resting his book on the wings of an angel. Some churches have carvings on the corbels that support major roof timbers. Hildersham's chancel has especially colourful decoration, including angels on each of its corbels.

Over the last couple of years, I have given an illustrated talk to many local organisations, taking a peek inside some of our parish churches and including photos of angels in many guises.



Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226  
Email: [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com)



At our meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May at The King's Arms, Paul Lopez gave a presentation about the Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC) network. Following his retirement as a policeman in 2023 he took on the managing director role of the CRC. He uses his experience to support businesses within the region about cybercrime. Support has helped businesses to tackle the growing threat of cybercrime and improve their levels of cyber resilience. The Eastern CRC Network is police-led and business-focused. Membership enables companies to access a range of fully funded training courses with services and support for all things cyber.



Sharon Schaffer from Support 4 Sight introduced the forum to the Get Set Progress Internship programme for blind and partially sighted job seekers. This initiative supplies funding and support for 40 internships with employers across the country. It is hoped that local businesses will make use of this win-win opportunity. For more information Sharon can be contacted at [sharon@support4sight.org.uk](mailto:sharon@support4sight.org.uk), or visit [www.pocklington.org.uk/employment](http://www.pocklington.org.uk/employment).

Maureen Caton, Chair of the Parish Council, gave an update on the review of the Parish Emergency Plan. This provides details about relevant action, who to contact and which communication channels will be available. Flooding has been an issue in the past, and the plan had to be put in action to minimise the damage and disruption to Lower Street and Church Road. For more information about our popular breakfast networking meetings please see our website or contact our Secretary, Steve Greenall on [hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com](mailto:hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com). The next meeting is on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 7.00am-9.00am** at the Kings Arms.



Iris Evans  
Treasurer

**THAXTED  
FESTIVAL**

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

A reminder of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thaxted Festival; four decades of world-class music in the heart of this historic town, continuing a tradition begun by Gustav Holst in 1916.

Music includes Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, and *West End Swings* from high-energy Sam Every Little Big Band, along with St Martin's Voices who will be performing with Zeb Soanes on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June**.

Beyond the main stage, there will be free community events, choir mornings, windmill tours, and *Sound Explorers* sensory workshops for babies and toddlers. Bring the whole family. Enjoy *Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers* with live brass band at Saffron Screen, and our thrilling closing concert of Ultimate Film Music with Docklands Sinfonia. Plus, don't miss a beatboxing-meets-opera mash-up with OperaBeatz at Audley End Enchanted Railway; fun for all ages. Tickets start from just £10 for under 30s and £5 for under 18s.

Lorna Burkle  
Festival Manager  
Tel: 01371 831421  
Email: [music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk](mailto:music@thaxtedfestival.co.uk)



**TOUCHPOINT GARDEN**

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

### From weeds to wonder – now we need you!

Once upon a time in 2021, the garden behind the hub was natural, very natural, wildly natural; the sort of place weeds and brambles go wild. Then along came the TouchPoint volunteers, armed with determination and a suspicious number of gardening gloves. They weeded, pruned, planted, built things and generally performed horticultural heroics. Today the garden is bursting with roses, clematis, passion flowers, colour and life. It is practically showing off. We do still have a wildflower area, for those of you on the wild side.



However, hardly anyone comes to enjoy it. Most days it is so quiet you can hear the plants gossiping. So please, wander in! Whether you have been to the library, work nearby, or simply need a peaceful corner to hide from your inbox, the garden is yours to enjoy. If you have ever thought after watching Monty Don *I could be a gardener, probably*, then our volunteers would love to hand you a trowel and welcome you aboard, no knowledge needed. If you can tell a plant from a biscuit, you are already halfway there. Visit on a café day and you can reward yourself with a cuppa and homemade cake. We firmly believe cake improves gardening skills. Please check café opening times on our website or at [facebook.com/touchpointstansted](https://facebook.com/touchpointstansted).

Shirley Johnson  
Email: [shirley@thetouchpoint.org](mailto:shirley@thetouchpoint.org)



# THE COCK INN HENHAM

Nr Bishop's Stortford  
Herts CM22 6AN

Tel - 01279 850347  
email - [bookings@thecockinnhenham.co.uk](mailto:bookings@thecockinnhenham.co.uk)  
[www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk](http://www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk)



## OPENING HOURS:

Sunday - 12pm to 7pm. Monday & Tuesday - closed  
Wednesday to Saturday - 12pm to 10pm.

## FOOD SERVED:

Wednesday to Saturday - 12pm to 2pm & 6pm to 9pm.  
Sunday - 12pm to 4pm.

## Taylor Computer Services (Stansted)

On-site Computer Maintenance/Repairs for Home or Business

**DON'T BE RESTRICTED TO OFFICE HOURS, I CAN VISIT  
YOUR HOME OR OFFICE DURING THE DAY, EVENINGS  
OR WEEKENDS AT A TIME TO SUIT YOU.**

Wireless Networking and Broadband Setup, Data Transfers,  
Hardware & Software Installation, Virus & Spyware Removal &  
Protection, New PC Setup & Training

Call Derrick on 01279 816418 ~ 07926 289749  
Email: [deltaylor61@btinternet.com](mailto:deltaylor61@btinternet.com)



## MCM Computer Services

Computer Services for homes and businesses

- Computer Repairs & Upgrades
- Networking & Internet
- Virus & Spyware removal
- Website Design

- On site repairs - £40 first hr, £20 per hr thereafter
- No Fix - No Fee
- Fixed price on collection and return repairs

[www.mcmcomputerservices.co.uk](http://www.mcmcomputerservices.co.uk)  
[mark@mcmcomputerservices.co.uk](mailto:mark@mcmcomputerservices.co.uk)

For a friendly, and reliable service call Mark on  
07815 011925  
01279 897243



## SDS INSTALLATIONS LTD

Aerial and Satellite Services

Foreign Satellite Systems - CCTV - Extra TV Points  
Sky Link Ups - Phone Points - Home Signal Distribution  
Wall Mounted Plasma / LCD Screens  
Cables Supplied and Hidden

Alan Smith 07771 881 042  
50 Sunnyside [sdsinstallations@hotmail.com](mailto:sdsinstallations@hotmail.com)  
Stansted CM24 8AX [www.sdsinstallations.co.uk](http://www.sdsinstallations.co.uk)

## COOK UPHOLSTERY

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

*Don't Replace It ... Re-cover It !*

### Any Item Reupholstered

Sofas • Armchairs • Headboards • Divans • Kitchen Chairs • Ottomans

Create a beautiful **Padded Feature Wall** in your lounge or bedroom

*Large choice of fabrics and designs*

Call Gary on 07787 518022 Email: [garycook99@btinternet.com](mailto:garycook99@btinternet.com)

*Text or email a picture for an immediate quote*



## DC Alarm Systems

Intruder, Access, C.C.T.V  
& Fire Alarm Systems

Local family business Est. 1984  
All intruder systems guaranteed for two years

Call Grant on 07775 673273

Telephone: 01279 494 596  
Email: [dcalarmsystems76@gmail.com](mailto:dcalarmsystems76@gmail.com)



## Looking for a Private/ NHS Dentist?

Castle Dental is taking **Private/Denplan/NHS Patients** (subject to availability)  
**Hygienist services, cosmetic and implant surgery**

**Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm**  
Private Saturday and late evening appointments available

**Tel. 01279 815166**  
Castle Dental, Castle Maltings, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8XG

## ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989



- Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors
- No Call Out Charge
- All Work Fully Guaranteed
- No Fix No Fee
- 10% Senior Citizen Discount

For More Advice & Help Call Christopher: **07772 111 222**

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

**This could be YOUR ad here  
Only £100 for 4 issues  
Other sizes available**

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising)  
or call Marion & Mike on 814059  
Email: [adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk)

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

### Have you read ...?

Reading has undoubtedly improved, enriched and helped civilize us all. Modern fiction offers us characters, situations, insight and understanding as well as engrossing stories. Having read a good book, we often want to talk about it, so it is no surprise therefore that the u3a has three book clubs meeting regularly in Stansted. Such titles as: *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *59 minutes* by Holly Seddon and *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng have recently been enjoyed and discussed. The groups meet monthly allowing time to read the books at home. Do check the website for contact information on these groups and the many others available at the u3a.

The very popular Garden group made a visit to Benington Lordship in April and enjoyed exploring this unique property comprising the ruins of a Norman keep, a neo-Norman folly and the beautiful Queen Anne house set in sweeping parkland. The orchard, rose garden, walled kitchen garden and wildflower meadow, resplendent with cowslips and snake-head fritillaries, made for a lovely tour full of interest; this included a large tortoise which was spotted making its way through the garden. The tortoise turned out to be an exile from a neighbouring garden on the run for a week! Happily, it was soon returned home.



The monthly u3a meeting was graced by the appearance of Lyndsey Barrel, best described as a raconteur. At ease behind the microphone, Lyndsey related the two occasions she had been on TV taking part in competitions. Her story explained the hilarious ignominy of her donning an uncomfortable ice cream cone costume and racing another cone to burst a balloon and have sprinkles applied. Laughter ensued as Lyndsey recounted how she attained victory. It was good fun and delightfully delivered.

Julia Cook

**Please support our advertisers  
and mention that you saw their advert  
in The Link.**

### Pupils celebrate Earth Day

We have had a wonderful time celebrating life in all its fullness and *Earth Day*, combining spiritual reflection with exploring our local area in glorious sunshine. The children gathered together in the hall where they learned all about bluebells, their different names, how they are protected, and the danger posed by the Spanish bluebell. We then set off across the fields in the beautiful sun, which was quite a long walk for some of our younger children, before the most magical moment of all, the gasps of *wow* as we entered the woodland.



The children enjoyed a gentle walk through the woods before sitting quietly for a few minutes of mindfulness, taking time to appreciate the beauty, peace and wonder of nature around them. We then enjoyed an ice-pop and walked back through the fields to school. The children were wonderful, did us proud, and made the whole afternoon a truly uplifting experience.

Sharon Vessey  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk

### ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the April draw:

£100	No 8	June Cannon
£50	No 177	Paul Salmon
£25	No 276	Jacqueline Jones

The draw for June will be held on **28<sup>th</sup> June** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. 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

# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

With news of hiring of a traffic expert to fight City & Country's housing plans, village roadworks in June, the co-option of a new Parish Councillor, Youth Club success, and a new wild meadow at Foresthall Park

### Highways expert hired

SMPC prepares to challenge developer's road use figures

One of the most contentious aspects of City & Country's proposal to build housing south of Stansted is its impact on local roads. Essex County Council's highways officers believe the developer's modelling underestimates traffic from nearly 500 homes planned across two sites between Stansted and Birchanger.

City & Country has submitted responses to these concerns.



We have sought professional representation to ensure Stansted's position is robustly presented to the committee.

**Parish Councillor  
Maureen Caton**

As we go to print in May, we have just received confirmation that both planning applications are likely to be considered by the Uttlesford District Council Planning Committee in June. Mitigation measures for the applications are still under review by Essex County Council, but in April Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council set aside £2,000

to join Birchanger Parish Council in hiring a highways expert.

Bruce Bamber of Railton TPC Ltd, a highly experienced highways consultant, has been asked to prepare representations on the impact of the proposals for the two sites where City and Country want to build.

As we write, the consultant is visiting the areas around the sites under consideration, including walking the roads around the area, looking at congestion during peak hours etc, with a view to drafting reports for both Parish Councils to submit ahead of the Planning Committee.

Parish Councillor Maureen Caton said: "We have sought professional representation to ensure Stansted's position both on general planning issues and highways and transport is robustly presented to the committee."



#### WHAT ARE CITY & COUNTRY'S PLANS?

To build 180 homes near Birchanger (UTT/25/3011/OP) and 300 homes south of Forest Hall Road (UTT/25/3012/OP).

#### WHY ARE THESE PROPOSALS CONTROVERSIAL?

Housebuilding on this scale and in these locations will create an urban sprawl where now green fields sit between the two villages and Bishop's Stortford. This will end our village identity and place a huge burden on our roads, schools, and medical services.

#### ISN'T THIS GREEN BELT LAND?

Yes—currently part of the Metropolitan Green Belt in the adopted Local Plan. However, its status is being questioned and a recent solar farm approval cited the land as "grey belt."

#### ISN'T THIS STRAIGHTFORWARD?

No. Councils face pressure to help deliver 1.5 million homes by 2029. Uttlesford has also been under scrutiny for approving too few developments.

#### CAN THE PARISH COUNCIL STOP IT?

No. We are a statutory consultee—we can comment but not approve or refuse applications ourselves.

#### WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL DOING?

Working with Birchanger Parish Council and funding expert support, including a planning barrister and a highways consultant.

#### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Support the campaign group Save Our Villages, which is coordinating local opposition.



[saveourvillages.co.uk](http://saveourvillages.co.uk)

## Silver Street roadworks

Traffic lights for Affinity water mains repairs



For three days at the end of June, you can expect traffic disruption along Silver Street where it meets Chapel Hill. Affinity Water will be using temporary traffic lights to control the flow of vehicles while they repair water mains in the area. Use of the pavement will be unaffected by the roadworks, which begin on Thursday, 22 June. In some good news on the road front, Essex Highways' three-week closure of

Church Road, which was due to start this month, has been postponed—but not for long. Work is now planned to begin on Monday, 27 July. Church Road will remain closed until Friday, 21 August—four weeks in total. Essex Highways says the work is necessary to ensure the safety of both the public and their workforce while drains alongside the road are cleared.

Once again, we would like to remind readers that SMPC is not responsible for granting permission for, or scheduling, roadworks.

[essexhighways.org/future-roadworks-map](https://www.essexhighways.org/future-roadworks-map)

## Council appoints new member

One space left on the Full Council after April co-option

A new face joined the SMPC ranks in April when Colin Ware was co-opted as a Parish Councillor. That leaves just one remaining vacancy on the Parish Council. Having lived in Stansted Mountfitchet for over seven years, Cllr Ware has developed a strong interest in local issues, volunteering at TouchPoint and supporting the village's COVID-19 vaccination programme during the pandemic. The retired investment banker and keen sports fan joins the Council with a commitment to preserving the village's character and promoting community engagement. If you are interested in filling the last Parish Councillor vacancy download an application pack from the SMPC website. Alternatively, you can enquire in-person at the Mountfitchet Exchange during Parish Council office hours (see page 23).

[stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/joinsmpc](https://www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/joinsmpc)

## Investment in youth pays off

Fresh start for Youth Council, Youth Club full to capacity

Three new recruits have stepped forward to serve on the Parish Council's Youth Council, marking the start of an exciting new chapter for the youth body.

In May, the trio of students from Birchwood and Magna Carta Schools held their first meeting. They began by exploring ways to gather ideas from young people across the village about replacing play equipment at the Recreation Ground. They also discussed future fundraising efforts to help pay for any new equipment.

## Biodiversity at Foresthall Park

'Don't Mow' trial gets underway

A new initiative to promote plant and animal diversity began in April. A section of grass verge along Bentley Drive will be left uncut from spring through to early autumn (October). Members of the Open Spaces Committee at SMPC hope that reducing mowing will allow native grasses and wildflowers to thrive. If the trial proves successful, Yellow Rattle—an attractive plant that suppresses grass growth and encourages wildflowers—will be introduced.

The site was previously identified in October for a proposed biodiversity wildflower meadow. Although the idea received support from nearby residents, project costs proved prohibitive. While this was disappointing, Parish Councillors believe that leaving part of the verge uncut offers a more cost-effective way to support plant diversity.

Throughout the trial the remainder of the verge will continue to be mown regularly. The area will be closely monitored, and at the end of the growing season an assessment will be made of the vegetation that has established. If the trial does not deliver the desired biodiversity benefits—as was the case with a previous project near the B1383—the area can be returned to regular mowing.

Residents are encouraged to get in touch with any questions about the project



SMPC Biodiversity Sites: Bentley Drive (1), Pennington Lane (2, 3), and the former wildflower area at the B1383 roundabout (4)



Although this may seem like a fast start, it reflects the natural rhythm of a Youth Council. Members often attend different schools and have busy homework schedules, meaning meeting time is limited

compared with the adult council.

There is also a constant cycle of change. Youth Councillors cannot serve beyond the age of 18, and in a village like Stansted, where there is no sixth form, many step down around the age of 16 as they focus on GCSE exams and then move on to further education.

Despite the short time many serve, Youth Councillors often find the experience highly rewarding. The role helps build confidence, develops communication and teamwork skills, and offers a chance to make a real difference locally. Responsibilities include speaking to other young people, sharing their views on community issues, and helping shape ideas to improve facilities such as playgrounds.

There are still places on the Youth Council. If you are interested in representing young people in Stansted, or know of somebody who might, please get in touch.

[info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

## Youth Club success

It is fantastic to be able to report that Stansted Youth Club is going from strength to strength. Activity nights at the Peter Kirk Centre on St John's Road are now at full capacity.

On some nights up to 60 people attend — over double the number from 12 months ago and a huge increase on the figures when SMPC first awarded the contract to Faircroft House in 2023.

Activities put on by the Saffron Walden-based community interest company include console gaming competitions, movie nights, board games, and outdoor football and basketball. The provision of free food and snacks, and the introduction of a girls-only night on Mondays and boxing sessions on Tuesdays have also boosted its popularity. SMPC has budgeted £18,000 to fund the Youth Club in 2026 — part of this is reimbursed by a grant of £9,000 from Uttlesford District Council.

## SMPC grants 2026

*Community groups encouraged to apply*

One local organisation has been fast out of the traps to apply for a Parish Council community grant in 2026. Uttlesford Community Travel now has £4,000 to support its work ferrying residents without transport to medical appointments, social events and to get their shopping. SMPC has over £12,000 to support local groups that provide services and facilities in and around Stansted. Most grant applications are for around £500, but the Parish Council regularly approves requests for larger sums, such as the one submitted by Uttlesford Community Travel. So, we would encourage grant requests from both small and large organisations alike.

SMPC evaluates all applications to ensure the grant delivers the best possible benefit to the community. To give your

## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

ELECTIONS 2026

In the recent local elections, Ray Gooding was elected for the Conservative Party as the county councillor for Stansted.

Rather than serving the usual four-year term, Cllr Gooding will remain in post until May 2028. This is because the county council is set to be abolished and replaced by a new unitary authority for West Essex, under which Uttlesford will merge with Harlow and Epping Forest councils.

A further round of local elections in spring 2027 will elect representatives to form a shadow authority ahead of the transition. Cllr Gooding, along with other county councillors, will serve alongside these newly elected members until the new structure is fully implemented.

## STANSTED

ELECTION RESULT  
7 May 2026  
Reg Voters: **14997**  
Turnout: **50.56%**  
Votes Cast: **7568**

**1<sup>st</sup> place**

**Ray Gooding**  
VOTES: **2,277**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place**

**Philip Hoy**  
VOTES: **1,926**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place**

**Geoffrey Sell**  
VOTES: **1,297**

**4<sup>th</sup> place**

**Bianca Donald**  
VOTES: **1,033**

**5<sup>th</sup> place**

**David Radford**  
VOTES: **655**

**6<sup>th</sup> place**

**Liam Arora**  
VOTES: **380**



**CONGRATULATIONS — NOW CAN YOU FIX THE POT HOLES...**

Cllr Maureen Caton, on behalf of the Parish Council, congratulated Cllr Gooding on his win and said she looks forward to working together—particularly to address Stansted's potholed roads: "Areas like the Lower Street roundabout need urgent attention. Tackling potholes must be at the top of Cllr Gooding's agenda from day one."

[www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ECC-elections-2026](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ECC-elections-2026)

application the best chance of success please read the SMPC's Grant Policy on our website.



**Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club used a £440 SMPC grant to buy equipment for young players**

[stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/community-grants](http://stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/community-grants)

## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

**Clerk** Ruth Clifford

**Deputy Clerk** Emma Philbrick

**Communications Officer** Dan Schlanker

**Email:** [info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01279 813214

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

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

**Reception:** Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

**Website:** [www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil)

**Instagram:** [stanstedparishcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/stanstedparishcouncil)

### Parish Councillors

**Ryan ACKERMAN** | ☎ 07557677995

[ryanackerman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ryanackerman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Alan BARNES** | ☎ 817214

[alanbarnes@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:alanbarnes@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**George BRAECKMAN** | ☎ 07981203831

[georgebraeckman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:georgebraeckman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Maureen CATON** | ☎ 813914

*Chair of SMPC*

[maureencaton@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:maureencaton@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Jamie GARDNER** | ☎ 07956255334

[jamiegardner@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jamiegardner@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Sophie GEE**

[sophiegee@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sophiegee@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Anne GUNEY** | ☎ 815996

[anneguney@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:anneguney@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**James HARDY** | ☎ 07809598393

[jameshardy@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jameshardy@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Joanna KAVANAGH** | ☎ 815157

[jokavanagh@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jokavanagh@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Ayub KHAN** | ☎ 815800

*Vice Chair of SMPC*

[ayubkhan@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:ayubkhan@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Linda HUGGETT** | ☎ 07950452847

[linda.huggett@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:linda.huggett@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**John O'BRIEN** | ☎ 816772

[johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Geoffrey SELL** | ☎ 815925

[cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Colin WARE** | ☎ 07722438067

[colin.ware@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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:

**3rd June** Open Spaces

**10th June** Full Council

**24th June** Finance & General Purposes

### Uttlesford District Councillors

**Alan DEAN**

☎ 813579 email: [cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Geoffrey SELL**

☎ 815925 email: [cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Ray GOODING**

☎ 813103 email: [cllrGOODING@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrGOODING@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Nick CHURCH**

email: [cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk)

### Essex County Councillor

**Ray Gooding**

☎ 813103 email: [cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk)

**Police** PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART

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

**TouchPoint** (72 Chapel Hill): Monday, 8th June – 10am-noon

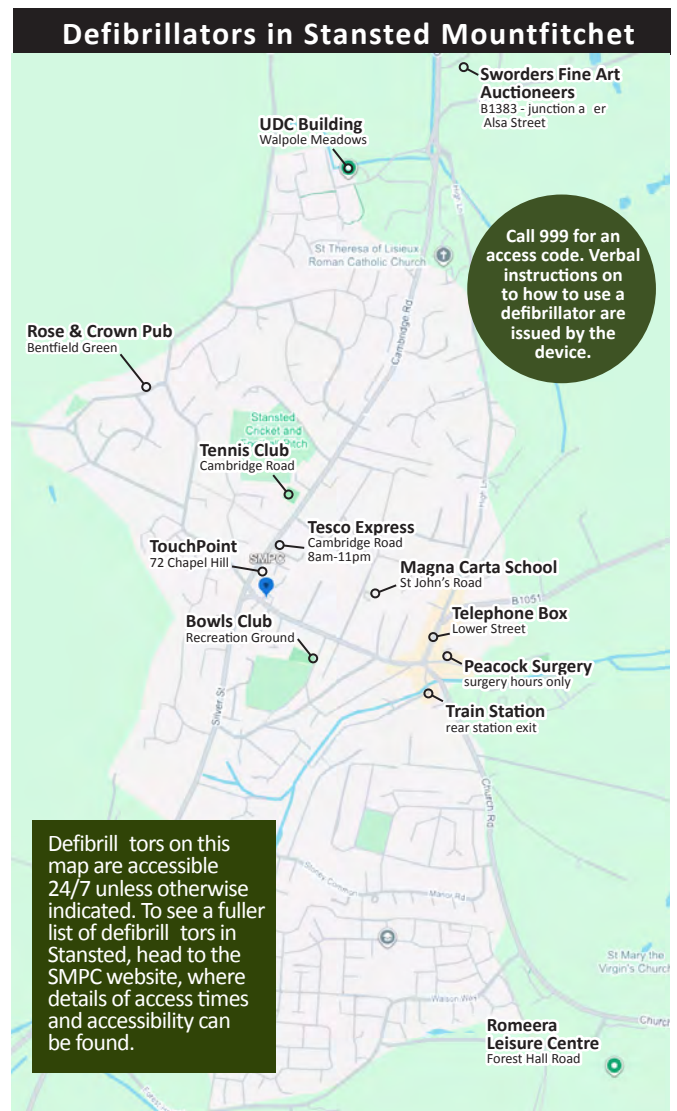
Monday, 15th June – 10am-noon, Thursday, 25th June – 10am-noon

**Mountfitchet Exchange** (72 Chapel Hill): Thursday, 11th June – 6-7pm, Thursday, 18th June – 6-7pm

**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, 11th June** from 11am-3pm. Exchange 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** Cra 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](mailto:info@thetouchpoint.org) ☎ 07572 114882

**Garden Waste Skip Service** The SMPC-funded garden waste service runs in the Lower Street car park on **Sunday, 7th June** and **Sunday, 21st June** — 1-5pm.



**Visit our Stove Shop in Takeley**

Woodburners, Multifuel and Gas Stoves  
Cooking Ranges & Pizza Ovens  
Expert HETAS Installers and Free Home Surveys

**OrionHeating.co.uk**

01279 813591 Takeley Business Centre, Dunmow Road, CM22 6SJ

**CK Electrical Installations**  
www.ckelectrical.uk

- All installations from light fittings to full re-wiring
- Full or Partial Domestic Electrical Inspections
- Garden Lighting and CCTV Installations
- All work certified for Building Regulations

Call Chris 07597 974945 or 01279 814333  
E-mail: ckelectricaluk@gmail.com

**JONES & CO**

Plumbing and Heating Engineers  
Installation and Maintenance  
Boiler and Cylinder Replacements  
Bathrooms ~ Gas and Oil Services  
*Please contact David Jones*  
Tel: 01279 815877 Mob: 07860 213760  
Email: davejones697@gmail.com

**J DAY & SON**  
CRAFTSMEN IN FINE STONE

We have a wide range of stylish and elegant memorials and headstones to choose from; alternatively we can design and craft bespoke options if you have seen one you like elsewhere

*For a brochure and prices or home visit call us*

Unit 3, Twyford Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3LJ  
Tel 01279 654555 www.jdayandson.co.uk

**P.Knight Plumbing**

Local, reliable and friendly plumber  
*All small and large jobs undertaken*  
Phillip Knight 07961 236066  
Email: phillipknight600@yahoo.co.uk

**ATM PLUMBING AND HEATING**

- ◆ Local Reliable Plumber
- ◆ 30 years' Experience
- ◆ Fully Insured

All domestic plumbing and heating work undertaken

Please call Terry 816223 or 07774 619002

Gas Safe registration no 182357

**RAY of the HILL**

Painting • Decorating  
Gardening • General Maintenance

ray@rayonthehill.co.uk  
Mob: 07790 509556  
Tel: 01279 851831

**FLEXIBLE STRENGTH**  
@MANUDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY 09:15  
TUESDAY 13:30  
Neuroscience Meets Movement  
07802 872919

**Do-It-4U**

Repair, Care & Maintenance for your Home and Garden

- ◆ Plumbing, Electrical & Carpentry Services
- ◆ Drain Blockages Cleared
- ◆ Gardens Tidied & Maintained
- ◆ Hedges & Topiary Trimmed & Shaped
- ◆ Fences Erected & Repaired
- ◆ Sheds & Other Sectional Buildings Erected

Tel 01279 814411 Mobile 07774 877320

**DPS Handyman Services**

Local friendly handyman  
Reasonable rates  
References available

Tel: Simon - 07970 905360



### Getting to grips with the pollinators

Encouraging pollinators to the allotment is something we have tried to do in various ways. The Bug Hotel near the entrance is a good way to encourage insects to stay overnight. Lupins not only look spectacular but attract bees and other key insects. The wild flower area is very much a work in progress and we are all learning together.

With the wildflower area we selected a sunny, low fertile spot and reduced the existing grass. We then sowed native seeds to provide for and encourage natural habitats for birds, insects and small mammals to create biodiversity. The aim was to create a lively feeding and nesting habitat for all. We have not quite cracked it yet! The main plant to survive was the yellow rattle, which attaches itself to root systems of grass and slows down its growth. So all is not lost; we prepared the wildflower area again trying to encourage wildlife and help combat climate change in our own small way. Watch this space for updates.



Everything else on the plot is looking good for this time of year, and it is planting galore! Huge thanks to Steve Howards and Peter Bunock, who have donated seed potatoes and beans for the allotment. 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 which 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](mailto:humanrootscommunity@gmail.com).

Ashley Huggonson  
Volunteer



### RECYCLING



A reminder that we are still collecting stamps along with foreign and old UK coins. Please place them in the box outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill along with the other items for recycling: 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](mailto:recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### ST CLARE HOSPICE

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



### Local artist gives back with pet portrait commissions

Following the death of his wife Sue in February 2025, 81 year-old Doug Copeland from Clavering has discovered renewed purpose through his love of pet portraiture. He is now raising vital funds for our Hospice, which cared for Sue at the end of her life, by creating bespoke pastel portraits for proud pet owners.

*My family and I were so grateful for the incredible end-of-life care provided by St Clare Hospice for Sue. So it got me thinking that perhaps I could support them by offering to paint pastel portraits of pets, primarily dogs and cats. I love doing them and it is so rewarding to think that I would be helping St Clare at the same time. Commissions for Doug's pastel pet portraits start from £75 plus framing, with every penny raised being donated directly to St Clare Hospice.*



Ellie Gale, Relationship Fundraising Manager said: *It was a privilege for our hospice team to care for Sue at the end of her life, and we are incredibly grateful that Doug is now giving back to St Clare through his exceptional artwork. The funds raised from his pet portraits will help us be there for other families when it matters most.* To commission a pet portrait, please email: [ellie.gale@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:ellie.gale@stclarehospice.org.uk) or call 773734.

Ellen Munson  
Marketing and Communications Officer  
Tel: 773700  
Email: [ellen.munson@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:ellen.munson@stclarehospice.org.uk)



**TouchPoint**  
**'Memory Lane' Café**  
*For those living with dementia, and their loved ones and carers*

Join us every week for companionship, activities, and a cup of tea or coffee.

- Every Monday morning
- Free to attend
- 10am to noon, drop in at any time
- At TouchPoint, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ

Parking is available outside. We have fully accessible facilities.

For more information, call 07572 114882, email [info@thetouchpoint.org](mailto:info@thetouchpoint.org), or visit [thetouchpoint.org](http://thetouchpoint.org)




**Cammashall**  
 Fruit Farm • Events • Food & Drink

- Fruit Farm
- Farm Shop
- Tea Barn
- Footgolf
- Play Area

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS 1961-2021

A Great Family Day Out!

BOOK PYO NOW!  
[cammashall.co.uk](http://cammashall.co.uk)

Cammashall Farm Nendham Green, Hatfield Broad Oak CM22 7JT

**This could be YOUR ad here**  
**Only £100 for 4 issues**  
**Other sizes available**

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising)  
 or call Marion & Mike on 814059  
 Email: [adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk)

**GO-JO Quality Cleaning**

Domestic & Office Cleaning

**Jo Freeman**  
 28 Years' Experience

**01799 543066**

[j.freeman195@yahoo.com](mailto:j.freeman195@yahoo.com)



**APPLIANCE CARE GENIUS**

- ✓ No call Out - Free Est
- ✓ 1 Year Guarantee on Parts
- ✓ Uniformed Engineer's with ID

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

**20+ YEARS**  
 SERVING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Bishop's Stortford: Hertford:  
 01279 755244 01992 306168  
 07789 658 144



**Young's Window Cleaning Service**

CLEANING FOR THE RESIDENTS OF STANSTED FOR 16 YEARS

Call Malcolm for a FREE quote  
 Mob: 07817 481 901

**SUE'S TAXI SERVICE**

Private Hire Lady Driver  
 Pre Booked Only

Please text on What's App:  
**07951 273332** or email  
[maitlandsue8@gmail.com](mailto:maitlandsue8@gmail.com)

Airports & Cruise Transfers, Day Rate,  
 Hospitals, Wait & Return, London.  
 4 Pax, Stansted based  
 Insured, Licensed & Certified



**CALLING NEW ADVERTISERS**

We have a few spaces available  
 for new advertisers

**Prices from £100**

**This size £160 for 4 issues**

**Other sizes available**

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising)  
 Email: [adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk)  
 or call Marion on 814059



## STANSTED IN BLOOM

The Stansted in Bloom Action Group is made up of representatives from Human Roots, The Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve, Stansted Social Club, two representatives from the Parish Council and myself as secretary and co-ordinator. We are currently focused on our entry in the 2026 Anglia in Bloom (AiB) competition. Last year we were awarded the second highest Silver Gilt award in the town category and Bentfield School (see photo below) and Stansted Social Club were winners in their respective categories. This year we are hoping to add the Tennis Club and Gorsefield Rural Studies and Outdoor Activities Centre to the route we plan to show the judges.



Our involvement in AiB is really all about celebrating the great work that various groups in our village are involved in, which contribute to making Stansted a great place to live. We also want to celebrate the contribution individuals and households make to enhancing their neighbourhoods through their efforts in their own gardens. To this end we are repeating the scheme which we trialled last year in which we recognised gardens deemed to be an asset to the local environment by issuing certificates of appreciation. We would really appreciate it if you could nominate any gardens that take your eye as you walk around the village, please email or text me with the details.

Trevor Lloyd  
Tel: 07739 428352  
Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Sue Martineau was the speaker at our April meeting and her subject was her childhood years spent in Sri Lanka. Sue explained its location in the Indian Ocean south-west of the Bay of Bengal and separated from India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait; in 2024 its population was 21.92 million. The beautiful island has a documented history stretching back over 3,000 years. Sue explained that her grandparents set sail for what was then Ceylon in the 1880s and to illustrate this she showed us some wonderfully evocative period photos and maps. Her parents carried on the family tradition remaining there for many years. At the end of her entertaining talk she kindly judged our competition

for an item from our childhood. A 78-year-old teddy belonging to our President was a worthy first prize winner!

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall and has the very entertaining theme of *How well do you know your brands?* when we will be blind testing well-known brands against supermarket's own. Why not come along and put your taste buds to the test? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922



Last year this event was an incredible success, raising almost £13,000 in funds for Bentfield Primary School and Nursery. This year it is on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June** and we hope it will be even bigger and better. Achieving this incredible amount is not possible without our fabulous bands who donate their time and their talent, and our sponsors and donors who help us cover our costs.

If you have not been before, Music in the Park (MITP) is held on our school's beautiful playing field, surrounded by trees. This much-loved community event brings together local talent and a brilliant crowd for a day of celebration and fun. Performances cover every taste in pop and rock, alongside a range of stalls, including a licensed bar, an amazing barbecue, children's bouncy castles, face painting, glitter, sweets and novelties and plenty of space to pitch your gazebo and dance the day away. Thanks to Dale Crowson for the photo below.



All the profit goes directly toward improving facilities and opportunities at our mainstream school, helping children thrive both in and out of the classroom. If you or your company are interested in sponsoring or making a donation, please email us. Tickets: Adults £15 advance, £18 on the gate, children 3-16 free but must be accompanied by an adult are available from the school office, ARBOR, The Dog and Duck or Intercounty. Gates open 1.00pm and Music will be played from 1.30pm-8.00pm. Let's make 2026 another record-breaking year supporting our community through the power of music!

The MITP Committee  
Email: mitpstansted@gmail.com



We have had a fantastic start to our summer term. The sun has been shining and everyone has been immersing themselves into their new learning. With the summer sun, the children have been busy in our garden area, planting seeds, digging over the wild area and making sure our new fruit trees are watered and growing strong.

Our youngest learners in Acorns recently enjoyed their *Big Me Day*. The classroom was transformed into a hub of learning, with opportunities to rôle play lots of different careers. The Acorns arrived dressed as teachers, chefs, astronauts, mechanics, hairdressers, sports professionals and even a search and rescue responder!

We have lots of exciting opportunities lined up ready for the rest of summer. We are thrilled to welcome families back into the building for our upcoming Reading Cafés. This is a chance for families to come in and share a story with their children. Bring your book to read over a cup of tea or squash at the café, with sweet treats specially baked for the event by our kitchen.



For our new September starters, we very much look forward to welcoming parents to our information evening, where our Early Years staff are ready to answer any questions you may have. This is also a chance for you to try a selection of our yummy home cooked meals!

Our new starters stay and play session will take place on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July**, when children and parents have the chance to explore their new classroom and meet their new teachers. The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) Summer Fayre is also fast approaching. On **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July** from noon, please come and support our fabulous PTFA in their annual fundraising event. The day promises to be full of fun, games, food, music and more.

Kara Power  
Deputy Headteacher



## GUESS THE OBJECT 6

Do any readers know what these objects are called and what they were used for?



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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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

The Society's Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. A special vote of thanks was given to Leila Riddell for all her hard work in arranging such a varied selection of talks last year plus those booked for the next season. It was confirmed that there would be no increase in the membership fee, at present £15. The committee will consider the proposal of laying a wreath at the annual memorial service and the possibility of having tea and coffee served before the meetings rather than at the conclusion.

Tony Wellings gave an interesting talk and slide show of photographs he had taken in the early 1980s of various shops and buildings along Silver Street and Cambridge Road which had either been demolished or completely changed in character. Tony then went on to show slides of Bedlows in Cambridge Road, who were blacksmiths and wheelwrights. Although these photographs were taken some considerable time after the closure of the business, there were still many references as to the conditions under which these talented people worked, which would make a modern-day Health and Safety Officer implode. Many thanks Tony for a really fascinating look into the past. Our next meeting will be in September; details to follow.

Edward Taub  
Email: [taub8j@icloud.com](mailto:taub8j@icloud.com)

## POT LUCK QUIZ 4 ANSWERS

- 1 Cat
- 2 George Lazenby
- 3 Cameron Diaz
- 4 David Bowie
- 5 Dundee
- 6 A Jill
- 7 Stanley Baldwin
- 8 Feathers
- 9 Melbourne
- 10 A Trident

## THE NEIGHBOUR FROM HELLING (Cont'd)

Joe loved being a postman most of the time; but not today. It had all started at the beginning of his round in Helling. When attempting to deliver a parcel he only narrowly escaped the vicious teeth of a very angry dog. Relief at managing to get back to his van unscathed was short lived; Joe had a flat tyre. By the time he'd contacted the depot and waited for a replacement vehicle the postie was way behind schedule.

The rest of the day he'd been chasing his tail trying to catch up without much success. Road works meant road closures seemingly everywhere and poor Joe is both exhausted and very late by the time he reaches Broad End and his last delivery of the day. Trudging up the path of Gladys's cottage Joe's looking forward to a cup of tea and a slice of her famous homemade ginger cake when he receives a message from Scarlett, his girlfriend. *"Sorry probably won't make it to the pub tonight. Emergency staff meeting at the school xx."* Joe's shoulders droop in disappointment. Could his day get any worse?

'What's up Joe? Look like you've lost a pound and found a penny?'

'Bad day Gladys. Any cake going?' He asked hopefully.

Gladys sniffed and led the way into her kitchen. 'No ginger cake left, but I've a fruit cake just about ready to come out of the oven.' Joe sighed. Given the day he'd had he wasn't surprised there was no ginger cake left.

'Sorry about the ginger cake. I've just eaten the last delicious slice,' smiled the Harley Davidson rider who'd recently moved into Broad End. Joe shuffled his feet awkwardly as he returned the smile. The first and last time he'd met her, he'd shouted at the woman, making her cry. He felt the flush of embarrassment rising up his neck.

'S'okay,' he mumbled. He sat down and searched for something to say to his fellow guest to fill the uncomfortable silence. Their hostess bustled about behind them, making a fresh pot of tea before carefully removing a magnificent fruit cake from the oven.

'That smells amazing,' remarked the neighbour. Pushing her long, unruly chestnut curls away from her face she turned to Joe. 'We didn't exactly get off on the right foot the other day did we? I'm Charlie by the way, and I'm really sorry about my dangerous driving. I was being an idiot on the bike.'



'You were but that didn't give me the right to have a go at you like that. Sorry,' said Joe, feeling better for having apologised.

'You had every right. I could have killed someone the way I was behaving, but you

made me stop and see the error of my ways', she grinned. 'I felt so bad that I went and knocked on all the neighbours' doors to apologise. To my astonishment they were all much

nicer to me than I deserved. Except for one who kept shouting at me and asking if I was from Helling.'

Joe laughed. 'That'd be Daphne. She's got a thing about people from Helling. Thinks they're all rogues and hooligans.'

Gladys plonked the cake on the table and poured three cups of tea before sitting down with a sigh, 'that's better. Been on me feet all day today.' Joe took a bite of the still warm cake, with a contented murmur of approval. Gladys sipped her tea. 'Charlie here is an author, Joe,' she said lowering her cup. 'She's staying at Edna's cottage while she works on a new book,' Gladys adds with a hint of pride in her voice. 'Right. So how's it going?' a surprised Joe spluttered between mouthfuls of cake.

Charlie grimaced. 'Not too well I'm afraid. I thought I'd get on better out here in the sticks with no distractions. That's what the bike was for. To get out and about "looking for inspiration" you know? But it's not working. Anyway, enough about me. Did I hear you say you'd had a rubbish day?'

'Yes, spit it out Joe', urged Gladys, cutting him another slice of cake.

Feeling better already for the cake and cuppa the postie regaled the two women with the events of his day, even managing to see the funny side of things, like the way the dog's tail was wagging furiously as it tried to bite his leg.

'I keep telling 'im he'd be better protected in long trousers. But 'e doesn't listen,' said Gladys crossing her arms under her generous bosom. 'Wears they shorts all year round. He'll catch his death one of these days if 'e's not careful.'

Both Charlie and Joe smiled at the old lady.

'Well, I won't get anything written sitting here. Thanks so much for the tea and cake Gladys, I'd better get back to it.'

Charlie slowly got to her feet looking quite reluctant to leave the cosy cottage. Joe feels quite sorry for her. He couldn't think of anything worse than being stuck indoors alone all day, faced with a blank screen or piece of paper to fill – apart from nearly being bitten by a dog of course.

'I'd better be off too Gladys. Thanks for everything.'

'You're always welcome Joe. You seeing that granddaughter of mine tonight?'

'Afraid not. She can't make it to the pub quiz this week. Got some sort of meeting on.'

'Did I hear you mention a quiz?' asked Charlie whirling round so fast, she startled the postie. 'I love a quiz. Where is it?'

'At the local pub.' On the spur of the moment he added, 'you're welcome to join our team if you like. We'll be one down without Scarlett. Starts 7.30.'

'Thanks Joe. It's a date, and my first night out since I moved here.' He turns to see Gladys shaking her head at him, as they watch Charlie practically skip down the lane.

'What have you done Joe? How do you think Scarlett's going to feel when she finds out about her very attractive stand-in?' Joe's mortified. He hadn't thought about what his girlfriend would think about him inviting Charlie. Surely, she'll understand. Won't she???

Yvonne Ayres  
U3a Creative Writing Group



## DUCK DOODLES

We are happy to include two recent pictures by our young Artist in Residence, Duck Doodles. I cannot pretend that we see too many kangaroos bouncing around Stansted but it is such a cute picture.



She has also drawn a picture of some of her fellow ducks. She says: *Most people think watching paint drying is boring but not if you have loads of ducks flying around. Did you know a red-breasted merganser is the fastest breed of duck and has been recorded to fly at 100mph?*



Our young artist seems very keen on wildlife; previous pictures have featured storks and mice, for example. It is great to be able to feature the natural world in such a charming and attractive manner. Thank you, Duck Doodles.

Ed

## IN THE GARDEN

### Planting by Design Part 1

To achieve all-year-round interest you need to do successional planting, using plants and bulbs that have different periods of interest throughout the year so that there is always something going on. This is rarely achieved wandering around a nursery where they often only sell what is in flower at the time. You need to look through your books and make a plan to ensure you have all months covered.

The second principle for a good planting design is rhythm and repetition; repeating groups of plants throughout the garden helps guide the eye naturally around the space, creating cohesion. Many gardens could be improved by reducing the types of plants by half and then doubling up the quantity of what remains.

If you are the type of person who loves to go to plant fairs and buy one of this and one of that then you will find it difficult to create a strong visual impact. I admit this is a challenge for me in my own garden as I love a plant fair; if you see something you like, try to buy at least 12!



*One of my favourite colour combos, lime green and purple, luscious!*

I am not a big fan of the colour wheel; mother nature does not seem to mind what colours go together. I agree with one exception; blue toned reds look pretty awful next to orange toned reds. Colour can affect the perception of space, as red is an advancing colour and it will appear closer than say white which is a receding colour.

**Top tip:** Dark purple flowers and leaves tend to disappear in a planting scheme so I rarely use them whereas pale colours are the last to disappear in the dusky light of evening and show up best in shady corners.

Anthea Harrison  
Email: [anthea@antheaharrison.co.uk](mailto:anthea@antheaharrison.co.uk)



## BRAIN TRAINING

### How to reduce the risk of falling over, Part 3

The human foot developed during the first days of hominid evolution, about two million years ago, when *Homo erectus* walked upright on feet similar to our own. Our feet are ancient and exquisitely engineered but we need to keep them strong.



We encase them in stiff, padded shoes. What could go wrong? Falling over, fallen arches, stiff arches, wonky toes, thin skin on the sole of the foot. Here are four exercises to help regain those supple springs at the end of our legs:

1. Spread your toes wide and press the pads of your toes into the floor. If your toes are permanently scrunched together, try yoga toe spreaders
2. Curl your foot as strongly as possible. Pretend to pick up a golf ball, giving the arches a hard squeeze. Try to get all five toes equally scrunched up. Bonus points for getting a cramp
3. Lift your toes, keeping the foot on the floor. Balance on one leg. This wakes the posterior tibialis muscle, a muscle that stops the foot rolling inwards, called over pronation. If your arches have grown weak, balance will be difficult, so begin with one finger on a wall to help
4. On your heels, forefoot off the floor, march on the spot, picking your knees up high. Another reason we fall is failure to pick our feet up properly when walking. The muscle involved in this is the tibialis anterior. It begins underneath the big toe, runs across the top of the foot and up towards the outside of the knee, supporting the arch of the foot and increasing ankle mobility. It is a good idea to put a finger on the wall when marching to keep the body completely upright.

Clare Harding  
Tel: 07802 872919

## LOCAL BUS TIMES

[www.stephensonsofsex.com](http://www.stephensonsofsex.com)

The **301** leaves Clarence Road at 9 minutes past each hour from 7.09am until 10.09pm.

Return journey leaves Riverside at 30 minutes past each hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm.

The **7/7A** leaves the top of Chapel Hill at 7.42am, 9.24am(A), 9.55am, 10.55am(A), 12.10pm, 1.20pm(A), 2.25pm, 3.15pm(A), 4.40pm, 5.40pm(A) and 6.55pm. Return journey leaves Riverside at 6.02am, 6.33am, 8.18am, 9.03am(A), 10.32am, 11.32am(A), 12.47pm, 1.32pm(A), 3.03pm, 3.53pm(A), 5.18pm, 6.17pm(A) and 7.32pm.

Both services are operated by Stephensons.



**RSPB**

[group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley](http://group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley)

Our activities start on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** at 10.00am when we are meeting for a walk at Great Notley Country Park CM77 7FS. This 4-mile walk features a relatively new country park offering trails, wildflower meadows and lakes. We finish at the Discovery Centre where refreshments can be purchased. At our monthly meeting on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA, we welcome Keith Betton who will be presenting *Around the World in 50 Birds* in which we will be examining iconic species from around the world that stand out as being special because of their looks or the way they live. Keith is a keen world birder having seen nearly 9,000 species in 123 countries. He has a particular passion for Africa and is chair of the African Bird Club. In the UK he is heavily involved in bird monitoring in Hampshire and has been a council member of both the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).



To finish the month, we celebrate the summer solstice on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June** with a visit to RSPB Fowlmere, Mill Rd, Royston SG8 6EZ, meeting at the reserve at 6.00pm. We will start with a fish supper or picnic, followed by a leisurely wander through the reserve until sundown, to enjoy the birds making the most of the longest day. For the last two years it has been a truly memorable evening and a great celebration of the summer solstice. For full details of all our activities, please see our website or contact me.

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



---

## THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

---

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

Each year we pay tribute to the people who contributed and lost their lives in the World Wars. This year our commemorative day is **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June** 11.00am-5.00pm, last entry 4.00pm, with refreshments available. Entry: £6 in advance, £7.50 on the day, children free, and we will be joined by the Royal British Legion, Saffron Walden Museum, the Dunkirk Museum and the Rifles Living History Society. Easton Lodge was requisitioned by the War Office at the start of WWI and was used as the HQ for the Third Army until 1916.

Part of the main house was being prepared for use as a VAD hospital, to accommodate 80 convalescent officers, but a big fire in February 1918 meant it could not be used. Visitors can learn about the Great Dunmow Airfield and stories from both wars, using the Trust's extensive archive of stories and photographs. There will be military vehicles on display too, as well as refreshments and period music from the Lancashire Belle.



After the warm, dry start to the main season this year, it is likely that in June the gardens will be in summer colours, with roses in Peto's Italian garden and the walled kitchen garden. The waterlilies will be starting to flower, with dragonflies darting around them. The wildflower spiral in the walled kitchen garden should be coming into its own, and there will be poppies everywhere.

The soft fruits have flowered well this spring, so we are hoping a large crop of berries will be ready for sale and for jamming from June. The Trust's volunteers have been nurturing vegetable seeds and young plants, so we will have a good selection of fresh vegetables too. The Gardens are open on Thursdays, 11.00am-3.00pm, last entry 2.00pm, except for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, when they will be closed for our AGM. For more information please see our website.

Jill Goldsmith  
Tel: 01371 876979  
Email: [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk)

## BIRCHANGER BEER FESTIVAL

[www.birchangerclub.com](http://www.birchangerclub.com)

Birchanger Sports and Social Club (BSSC) is gearing up for one of the most anticipated community events of the year: the 2026 Ale, Cider and Gin Festival. Promising great flavours, it runs on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June** 5.00pm till close, and **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** noon-8.30pm. The event takes place at 229 Birchanger Lane CM23 5QJ and is free to enter.

This annual festival has become a highlight for locals and visitors alike, bringing together a fantastic selection of traditional ales, refreshing ciders and carefully curated gins. Whether you are a seasoned enthusiast or simply curious to try something new, there will be plenty to explore over the weekend. From bold, hoppy brews to crisp fruit ciders and aromatic small-batch gins, the variety on offer ensures there is something for every taste. Throughout all three days, guests can enjoy live entertainment, with performances from bands who know how to keep the atmosphere buzzing. There will also be a tempting range of freshly prepared hot food.

One of the best things about the festival is its welcoming spirit. Non-members are warmly invited, making it an ideal opportunity for families, friends and neighbours to come together and enjoy a relaxed, friendly environment. You will find a lively community atmosphere whether you drop in for an afternoon or make it a full weekend. With great drinks, delicious food and terrific entertainment, it is set to be a weekend you will not want to miss.



Katie Martin  
Entertainment Organiser  
Email: [entertainment@birchangerclub.com](mailto:entertainment@birchangerclub.com)



## STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

[www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club](http://www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club)

The season has begun. The Club lost to Takeley and defeated Stansted in our two friendlies. Our first league match saw the 1<sup>st</sup> XI lose to Thorley and our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI defeating Thorley II. The Club's Open Day was very successful; the sun shone and numerous guests enjoyed a cup of tea and light refreshments. We would like to thank the councillors who attended.

Numbers for the junior section continue to be very good, our All Stars (5 to 8 years old) were full weeks ago and our Dynamos age group has proved to be very popular. Older age groups are raring to start league matches in the West Essex DCB league. The Club continues to look for new members so if you fancy joining a social community-based cricket club please contact me as below.



David Brown  
Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663  
Email: [david1.r.brown@gmail.com](mailto:david1.r.brown@gmail.com)



## STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

The summer bowls season is now upon us. The Club had a very successful gala day, sponsored by Daniel Robinson and Sons, which was attended by 16 teams from the local area and further afield. Fun was had by all and the event raised funds for the Club. Games are coming thick and fast in both the Essex and Herts Seniors league and North West Essex league. Fixtures can be found on our website, Facebook page or the notice board at the front of the Clubhouse, and will be updated weekly.

David Danby  
Secretary  
Tel: 07799 722940  
Email: daviddanby30@gmail.com



## Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

The Club got the new season off to a fantastic start with an action-packed weekend of cricket. The First XI welcomed High Beech to Hargrave Park for their opening fixture. A shaky start to the bowling saw the batting side reach 100 without loss after 10 overs. Matt Cope was able to stem the flow of runs and break the opening partnership with some excellent spin bowling and a late flurry of runs saw High Beech posting an imposing 280 for 4. In response, Stansted produced a superb chase, reaching the target for the loss of eight wickets in a thrilling finish. The game looked to be getting away from Stansted at 114 for 6, when enter Blair Gardiner, who struck a magnificent maiden century from just 60 balls, sealing victory in style with a boundary. It was an excellent result for stand-in captain Huw Edwards and a brilliant start to the campaign for the First XI.



The Second XI were unfortunate to come away empty-handed in a closely contested match against Harlow Town 3rd XI. Overall, it was a hugely encouraging opening weekend for the Club, with strong performances, emerging young talent, and plenty of reasons for optimism as the season gets underway.

Emiel Pronk  
Email: emiel.pronk@icloud.com



## Stansted Tennis Club

Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

### Player Profile: Captain Mark

I asked club member Mark Edmeades a few questions as part of a new series of player profiles; this is to give you a flavour of the different mix of people who play tennis at Stansted. Mark and his family moved to Stansted from South Africa two and a half years ago. He has been an airline pilot for 30 years and moved to the village when he took a job at Ryanair. Mark did his research and wanted to move to an area with a vibrant tennis club. He started playing competitively around 10 years ago; his mother played tennis until she was 86 and as a child Mark was often around tennis courts with rackets always close by. His favourite player as a child was Bjorn Borg but his all-time favourite is Roger Federer. He also enjoys watching the current young players especially Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. His favourite shot is the topspin forehand, but he has already built a reputation for his super quick reactions at the net. Mark has quickly established himself as a key member of both the men's and mixed league teams, where his calm personality makes him the perfect doubles partner.



I asked Mark what he liked most about the Club and he replied: *The Club has a very friendly all-inclusive environment. It is great to be part of a club that enjoys social tennis but is still competitive in the Essex league.* Thanks to Mark for being hopefully the first of many players profiled. The Club has always warmly welcomed new people, and this has been part of our ethos for decades. You will find details of becoming a member and membership fees on our website.

Jon Budd  
Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

### LINK ADVERTISING

We are still taking bookings for our printing year and there are various sizes available

Ads on the inside pages start from  
**£100** for four issues July - Oct

See [www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising)

or if you do not have Internet access  
call Marion on 814059



## STANSTED SCOUTS

### Activity day

We asked the Scouts what activities they would like to do towards their Adventure Challenge and with choices booked it was off to Skreens Park Activity Centre. First up was an archery session and although Robin Hood has nothing to worry about, we do have a few good archers. Tomahawk throwing was a chance for the leaders to show off their mis-spent youth, which we did and we also let the Scouts have a go. We had an hour for lunch followed by Crate Stacking, an ever-popular activity, and finished off the warm day with a laughter filled kayak session on the lake. The weather was sunny and everyone had a really good day, so well done everyone for taking part.



### Scout visit

Part of the Air Activities badge requires a visit to a museum so it was off to the fabulous RAF museum in Hendon. They have question sheets for the Scouts so they went off looking all around the museum for answers to the badge questions. We arranged to meet back up at lunch time; we found that some had finished their sheets while others were yet to start! After lunch, another look around and more questions answered. It is very well run, family friendly and free to enter. It is a fabulous collection that you can get very close to; standing under the wing of a Lancaster bomber is not what you do every day. We all had a great time and we will definitely go again.

Mike Byrne  
Team Leader  
Tel: 812780



## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

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

The report from our millwright Paul Kemp confirmed the need to replace the sails within the next five years. The current sails have lasted very well but were only fitted as cosmetic items in 1985. Timber should be bought by the end of 2028 and stored for seasoning for two years. It is estimated that the timber will cost in the region of £5000. The full cost of the project is likely to be in the region of £80,000. The repointing project has significantly depleted

reserves for conservation work at the mill so our fundraising efforts are really important at the moment. In the May Link, we reported on our race night and Easter events which raised important funds. We were also very appreciative of recent donations made in the memory of Miss Angela Sampford, a former Stansted resident.

Planning is underway for our late Summer Bank Holiday fête which is the major fundraising event of the year. Geoff Clark, who, with his family, has been a key part of the fête team for many years, feels unable to contribute this year. We would like to extend our appreciation of the family's huge efforts over the years. Geoff's retirement means it is even more important that we recruit new volunteers to help plan and deliver the fête which is one of the highlights of the local calendar. If you are interested we would love to hear from you. The mill is open to visitors on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June** at 1.30pm with last admission at 5.00pm.

Trevor Lloyd  
Tel: 07739 428352  
Email: [info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk](mailto:info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk)



## SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

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

### Energy Awareness Event

We are proud to announce that, as a core part of The Uttlesford Big Green Festival (5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June), and in partnership with others, including Uttlesford District Council, Sustainable Uttlesford and Peacock Community Energy, we are hosting this important event. The aim is to help local residents to cut their energy bills and get clean energy by switching from fossil fuels to renewable sources. The event is on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June** 10.30am-3.30pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre. There will be refreshments throughout the day and there is plenty of free parking.



We will be showing various energy-saving tips and products with no or low-cost solutions, as well as insulation materials, solar panels, batteries and heat pumps. Our industry experts will host talks and question and answer sessions to enable you to cut costs and obtain greener energy solutions. All these sessions feature experienced people who have done it before, so if you have been thinking that you need to know more, coming to this free event will be a great way to start.

Our organisation provides information and energy-saving advice through leaflets, events, clinics and talks but mainly through our Facebook page (Sustainable Stansted) and our website.

Bob Burlton  
Email: [sustainablestansted@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablestansted@gmail.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 Charlotte Graham char.huskies1ststansted@yahoo.com	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
(Thu)	Bulldogs Hazel Crundwell 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs@gmail.com	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted is Well Read	Diana Griffin Tel: 813056 Email: stanstediswell_read@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarratt54@gmail.com	Stansted Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638		
Uttlesford Support Group	Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Lorraine Hayes Tel: 814242 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbie12a@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](mailto:announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk) or send the details to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG. Details must be submitted by the 8th of the month for publication the following month.

# Index to Advertisers

IFC - Inside Front Cover		IBC - Inside Back Cover		OBC - Outside Back Cover	
<b>Building Services</b>	A Wright Builders	8	<b>Hairdressing</b>	Lino Thomas	OBC
	David Fortune (Builder)	OBC	<b>Halls for Hire</b>	Quaker Meeting House	12
	D S Designs	8		Stansted Free Church Hall	12
	JKL Construction	IBC		St John's Hall	12
	N & J Westwood	8		Ugley Village Hall	12
	Renovate Interiors	IFC	<b>Household Installations</b>	D C Alarms	18
	Uttlesford District Council	8		SDS Aerials	18
<b>Chiropody</b>	R Handford	12	<b>Leisure</b>	Stansted Social Club	12
	Julie Golden	12	<b>Motor</b>	D Bonney & Sons	IFC
<b>Cleaning</b>	Clear Ovens	IFC		Sue's Taxi Service	26
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	26	<b>Osteopathy</b>	The Osteopath	IBC
<b>Care and Community Services</b>	Hargrave House Care Home	10	<b>Painting &amp; Decorating</b>	Lesley Anne Painting	8
	Hearing Help	12		Taylors Decorating	8
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	10	<b>Plastering</b>	T F Plastering	8
	Sierra Homecare Ltd	10	<b>Plumbing &amp; Heating</b>	ATM Plumbing & Heating	24
	Touchoint Memory Lane Café	26		BG Plumbing & Heating	8
	Uttlesford Community Travel	12		Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
<b>Computing &amp; Office</b>	MCM Computer Services	18		Jones (Plumbing & Heating)	24
	Taylor Computer Services	18		Orion Heating	24
	Witts End Business Services	6		P Knight Plumbing	24
<b>Dental</b>	Castle Dental	18	<b>Property</b>	Appliance Care Genius	26
<b>Electrical &amp; Solar</b>	CK Electrical Installations	24		Camwood Home Improvements	IBC
	Freeley Solar & Electrical	OBC		Christopher the Locksmith	18
<b>Finance</b>	TW Estates	16		Do-It-4U	24
	WE Financial	16		DPS Handyman Services	24
<b>Fitness</b>	Flexible Strength	24		Ray on the Hill	24
	Stansted Pilates	OBC		Finch and Son	OBC
<b>Food &amp; Drink</b>	Cammas Hall Fruit Farm	26		Young's Window Cleaning	26
	Nolaki Turkish & Mediterranean	IBC	<b>Preschool</b>	Rainbow Pre-School	16
	The Cock Inn, Henham	18	<b>Soft Furnishings</b>	Cook Upholstery	18
<b>Funeral Services</b>	Daniel Robinson & Sons	IFC		Stort Blinds	IFC
	J Day & Son (Stonemason)	24	<b>Tree Surgeon</b>	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC
<b>Furniture</b>	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	IFC		Mowtivated	16
	K&B Bespoke Kitchens	IBC			
<b>Garden Services</b>	D Honour & Son Landscapes	OBC			
	Greenscroft Fencing	16			
	Mowtivated	16			
	The Secret Gardener	16			

FREE PARKING ON SITE

TAKEAWAY COLLECTION AVAILABLE



**NOLAKI**

TURKISH & MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT



LUNCH MENU  
MONDAY TO FRIDAY | 12PM - 4PM

2 COURSES - £14.95 PER PERSON  
3 COURSES - £17.95 PER PERSON

EXPLORE A VARIETY OF COLD AND HOT STARTERS, MAINS INCLUDING KEBABS, SEAFOOD, AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS, AND INDULGENT DESSERTS.

SUNDAY ROAST MENU  
SERVED FROM 12-5PM

CHOOSE FROM HALF ROASTED CHICKEN, SIRLOIN OF BEEF, LAMB, VEGETARIAN ROAST, OR OUR SPECIAL MIXED ROAST.

ALL SERVED WITH ROAST POTATOES, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, YORKSHIRE PUDDING & GRAVY.



CALL: 01279812964 | VISIT: WWW.NOLAKI.CO.UK/

30 SILVER ST, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, STANSTED CM24 8HD



**CAMWOOD**  
HOME IMPROVEMENTS


**Kitchens • Bathrooms**  
**Electrics • Conversions • Air Conditioning**

Fully Qualified Experienced Tradesmen  
All other aspects of building

Get in touch today for a free quote

Office: 01279 814296 Mobile: 07714 300920  
Email: [camwoodhome@outlook.com](mailto:camwoodhome@outlook.com)  
[www.camwoodhome.co.uk](http://www.camwoodhome.co.uk)

 camwoodhome  



**Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy**

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.

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

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

Please call to book an appointment or a class  
01279 813371 or 07973 409675  
[www.hazel-williams.co.uk](http://www.hazel-williams.co.uk)



**JKL CONSTRUCTION & CARPENTRY LTD**

Please contact Matthew Williams for further information.  
Tel: 07507 880435  
[info@jklconstructionltd.co.uk](mailto:info@jklconstructionltd.co.uk)  
[www.jklconstructionltd.co.uk](http://www.jklconstructionltd.co.uk)





Specialising in

- Project management
- Renovations
- New build homes
- Conversions
- Extensions
- All works to achieve a quality result and a pristine finish

*We have access to quality trades people who we have trust in, so you can trust us to make your dream home a reality!*



 **TRUSTMARK**  
Government Endorsed Quality

 **LABC**

 **MASTER BUILDERS**  
Trade.org.uk

Working in partnership for you

CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH DESIGN  
FULLY PROJECT MANAGED



**K&B**

BESPOKE KITCHENS

T: 01279 815737 M: 07710 434063  
E: [enquiries@kandbkitchens.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@kandbkitchens.co.uk)  
[www.kandbkitchens.co.uk](http://www.kandbkitchens.co.uk)



**LINO THOMAS**  
HAIRDRESSERS

TELEPHONE 01279 812910

LINO THOMAS, THE GREENS BUILDING, CAMBRIDGE ROAD,  
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, ESSEX CM24 8BZ  
WWW.LINOTOMASHAIRDRESSING.CO.UK



NEW BUILDS & ALTERATIONS ■ LOFT CONVERSIONS ■ KITCHEN & BATHROOMS ■ PLUMBING ■ LANDSCAPING ■ THROUGH-FIT OFF CONVERSIONS ■

**David Fortune**

MASTER BUILDER

For a free quotation please call  
**01279 816883** or **07576 753811**  
or email: [fortunemasterbuilder@gmail.com](mailto:fortunemasterbuilder@gmail.com)

**Plan drawing service available**

**FINCH & SON**

**KITCHENS**  
**BATHROOMS · BEDROOMS**  
**PLUMBING · CARPENTRY**  
**SMALL BUILDING WORKS**  
**DECORATING · TILING**

Paul Finch (BEng)  
07981 907 624 [finchandson@gmail.com](mailto:finchandson@gmail.com)



**FREELEY SOLAR & ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

**OUR SERVICES**

- SOLAR PV
- BATTERY STORAGE
- EV CHARGERS
- CUSTOMISED DESIGN
- ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION
- REWIRE
- FUSEBOARD CHANGES
- COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC

FULLY QUALIFIED AND FULLY INSURED

CONTACT US      01799 796442      07812 209611

[hello@freeleysolar.co.uk](mailto:hello@freeleysolar.co.uk)

[freeleysolar](https://www.instagram.com/freeleysolar)      [FreeleySolar](https://www.facebook.com/FreeleySolar)      [www.freeleysolar.co.uk](https://www.freeleysolar.co.uk)










Heating & Plumbing Ltd

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

All Plumbing, Heating & Gas Repairs  
Boiler Servicing & Installation - Bathroom Installations  
Gas & Oil Specialists - Boiler Finance Available

Tel: 01279 771981 Email: [info@harpersplumbing.co.uk](mailto:info@harpersplumbing.co.uk)






**D. Honour & Son**  
(Landscape) Ltd.

Your local Marshalls approved Installer  
**Brickwork Paving Fencing**







British Association of Landscape Industries




Part of Capita plc.



**Tel: 01279 813160**  
[info@honourlandscape.co.uk](mailto:info@honourlandscape.co.uk)  
[www.honourlandscape.co.uk](http://www.honourlandscape.co.uk)  
The Old Brickyard, Elsenham Road, Stansted, Essex CM24 8ST

**MASKALLS TREE SURGERY**

Small family business

**Big expertise in trees**

Call George  
M: 07982 601 570 | T: 01279 819 127  
email: [george@maskalls.co.uk](mailto:george@maskalls.co.uk)  
[www.maskalls.co.uk](http://www.maskalls.co.uk)



All types of tree care & hedge cutting undertaken.  
Call for a free quotation.

