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The Link





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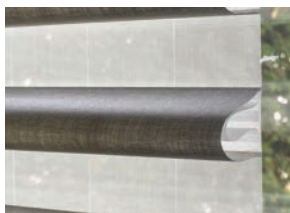
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Front Cover

Red Peacock butterfly

by Alan Wheeler

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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CONTENTS

Churches	Stansted Free Church	15	Local Council	Stansted Network	20-23
	Stansted Quaker Meeting	14			
	St John's Church	15	Health,	Brain Training	9
	St Theresa's Catholic Church	14	Wellbeing and	Human Roots	13
	Thought for the Month	14	Environment	Recycling	25
				Sustainable Stansted	17
Children,	1st Stansted Rainbows and Brownies	2	Features	Beekeeping	19
Youth and	Daisy May's	6		Editorial	2
Families	Fun Place	7		Hundred Parishes	13
				In the Garden	11
Clubs and	Directory of Clubs and Organisations	27	Fundraising	Bingo at St Theresa's	13
Community	Huw Johnson Club	2		Gorsefield Pop-Up Restaurant	3
	RSPB	4		Hill Chilli	19
	Stansted Evening W I	6		Macmillan Coffee Morning	7
	Stansted is Well Read	2		St John's 300 Club	7
	Stansted Local History Society	17		Toe Beans Cat Rescue	17
	Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	3	Advertising	Calling New Advertisers	11
	The Arts Society of BS	4	and Business	Index to Advertisers	28
	The Place on the Hill	3			
	Ugley W I	4	Sports	Stansted Cricket Club	19
Local	Changes to 7/7A Bus Times	3		Stansted Football Club	25
Roundup	Gardens of Easton Lodge	11		Stansted Tennis Club	25
	Stansted Windmill	7	The Arts	South Mill Arts	9
	War Memorial Flowers	6			
Village Events	What's on in September	5			

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE

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

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EDITORIAL



I have rarely seen such a wonderful butterfly photograph as the one on this month's front cover. We have one of The Link team's members to thank for this stunning picture: Alan Wheeler, who is our Treasurer and Company Secretary. I do not know how much the drought is affecting these glorious insects. Kevin Hancock reports on page 19 that his bees are very challenged by the weather, so I would guess that the same probably applies to butterflies. OK Stansted, time for us all to do a rain dance!

You will probably notice that this issue of The Link does not include articles from as many of our regular contributors as in some issues. For instance, we do not hear from the schools at this time of year as it is their summer break. What is not lacking, however, are fundraising events, which are many and varied during the coming months. One event which we have not featured before is the Gorsefield Charity Dinner on page 3. You may recall that we featured Christine and Bill Stiles in our Stansted People section in the June issue and this month is their well-known coffee morning on behalf of Macmillan. Dave Morson will be running a Bingo session in aid of St Theresa's Hall, and Sonia Levy is holding her annual Hill Chilli event on behalf of St John's Hall. As happens every month, there is the draw for the St John's 300 Club and finally, the handsome Ronnie is the star of the Toe Beans article on page 17. That is such a marvellous title for a cat charity as it exactly describes the way a cat's paw looks.

Ed



Rainbows

Our Rainbow group had a fantastic term filled with fun summer-themed activities and creative crafts. The girls enjoyed designing their own tie-dye T-shirts and painting colourful stones, which were hidden around the village for the local community to find. They also worked hard towards their Bee Badge, creating their own bee baths to help support local wildlife.



Brownies

Our Brownie group were lucky enough to visit Stansted Library, where they learned all about the library's services and took part in activities linked to the *summer reading challenge*. The visit also contributed towards completing their *Book Reviewer Badge*. To celebrate the World Cup, the Brownies enjoyed football-themed activities, including designing and creating their own football kits.

1066 Adventure Golf

To round off a fantastic term, both our Rainbow and Brownie groups enjoyed a fun-filled trip to 1066 Adventure Golf at Golf World Stansted. The girls loved taking on the course and cheering each other on. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to have fun together, build friendships across both sections, and make some fantastic memories before the summer break.

Abbie Scott
Email: firststansted@hotmail.com

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. We held two meetings in July and everyone enjoyed the extra opportunity to get together. The visit from the Woodwind Band of Bishop's Stortford was great fun as always with everyone joining in by singing, dancing and accompanying the band on a range of percussion instruments. Thank you to everyone in the band for giving up their evening to come and entertain us. We then had a games and quiz evening and are looking forward to a summer disco at our next meeting.

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 transport members to and from the sessions are always very welcome too.

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

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 1st September** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *Small Pleasures* by Clare Chambers. The novel is about Jean Swinney, an unmarried journalist disappointed in love, on the brink of 40, who lives a limited existence with her truculent mother. When asked to investigate a bizarre virgin birth claim, Jean's life is turned upside down.

Have you read any good books you can recommend? Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056

GORSEFIELD POP-UP RESTAURANT

www.gorsefield.org

A taste of Gorsefield

Our Autumn Harvest Pop-Up Restaurant will be the fourth in a successful series of such fundraising events, bringing together seasonal food, community and fundraising in the unique setting of Gorsefield's country house on Grove Hill.



The event will take place on **Friday 30th October**. Doors open at 7.00pm, with dinner at 7.30pm. All proceeds will support the Gorsefield Charitable Foundation, helping more children access residential visits, outdoor learning and experiences at Gorsefield that they might otherwise miss due to financial hardship. The evening will feature a specially prepared three-course autumn meal created by our in-house Head Chef, Tom Hadlow. Wherever possible, dishes will use seasonal produce grown in our kitchen garden alongside high-quality ingredients sourced locally. Following dinner, there will be a guest speaker, whose identity will be announced soon. Tickets are £39.99, available from Eventbrite <https://a-taste-of-gorsefield-the-autumn-harvest.eventbrite.co.uk>. There is plenty of free parking. We look forward to seeing you.

Paul Jackson
Headteacher

Email: pjackson@gorsefield.org



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Whatever the weather is doing, 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

CHANGES TO 7/7A BUS TIMES

www.central-connect.co.uk

Central Connect have taken over the contract and some morning and evening services have been withdrawn.

The **7/7A** leaves the top of Chapel Hill at 7.42am, 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 8.18am, 9.03am(A), 10.32am, 11.32am(A), 12.47pm, 1.32pm(A), 3.03pm, 3.53pm(A), 5.18pm, and 6.17pm(A).



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

Pearls and other gems

What do Henry VIII and Audrey Hepburn have in common? Pearls of course! Imagine the famous picture of each and there are the pearls, emphasising their renown. On a hot July afternoon a large audience turned out to hear James Middleton's presentation on *Pearls*.



In his wide-ranging talk he charted the biology and history of pearls, their retrieval from freshwater and oceans and the amazing breath-holding physical feats of pearl divers over the centuries. He also men-

tioned the astonishing amounts people have paid for such gems over time, an unforgettable example being the thousands Richard Burton paid to gift the famous La Peregrina pearl to Elizabeth Taylor in 1969.

Another talk not to be missed is the one on **Thursday 17th September** by Andy Strange on the role of the RAF and Special Operations Executive in supporting the Resistance during WWII, a subject that promises to be enlightening and affecting like many of the stories that come out of that war.

Do you ever get irritated or overwhelmed by the expectations of IT? A silly question for me that is for sure! The u3a does run a gem of a class that might be just the way to help you over some of those IT bumps. The class is held once a month and part of its approach is to demonstrate the usefulness of many of the facets of our digital world. So far, some of the topics covered include the digital letterbox of emails, the helpful librarian of AI, shopping and banking online. For further information please go to *groups* on our website. Remember membership of the u3a costs only £14 a year and that gives you so many possibilities for further learning and lots of fun. Check the website or call 07874 385541.

Julia Cook



RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

With the start of September and our new programme, we are delighted to announce the addition of an RSPB information board in Castle Park, Bishop's Stortford. This was made possible through Waitrose-donated funds and Jono Forgham's nomination. A combination of RSPB and Forefront Signs produced the board which was installed by The Friends of Castle Park. All of this was in collaboration with East Herts and Bishop's Stortford Councils and Countryside Management.



Our monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month and feature a range of guest speakers. The first one is on **Tuesday 8th September** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Park CM23 4DA and sees the return of Peter Holden as our guest speaker. With the RSPB wanting people to take more action for birds and wildlife in their own gardens, his presentation looks at the sights and sounds of garden birds and what we have discovered about their needs. In 1979, Peter was instrumental in developing and promoting the first citizen science project in the UK: *Big Garden Birdwatch*. He has written many books, including the highly acclaimed RSPB Handbook of British Birds and the RSPB Handbook of Garden Wildlife.

Our first short, sociable, local bird walk on **Thursday 24th September** will celebrate the Castle Park information board. We plan to meet at the war memorial in Castle Park at 10.00am from where we will follow the River Stort northwards.

Full details of all our activities can be found on our website, and I thoroughly recommend you pay a visit and look around. Alternatively, you may like to join our email list so that you can receive reminders and notifications about our events.

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



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Ugley Village Hall was a hive of industry and activity at our July meeting. Members and visitors arrived to find tables laden with paper cups, templates, a splendid array of patterned paper, ribbon, coloured card, self-adhesive jewels, pens, rulers, pencils and a tempting selection of chocolates! The theme of the afternoon was craft, and after being shown by a member of our hard-working committee, Jane Cowley, how to create envelopes, gift card envelopes, boxes, pouches for small gifts (a chocolate or two perhaps?) and table favours using a humble paper cup, we all managed to create something to take home with us.

Katie Lynn will be the speaker at our next meeting which will be held on **Wednesday 16th September** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall; her subject will be *Homemade Glass*. Why not come along and join us for the afternoon? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



www.tasbs.org.uk

Continuing our 50th Anniversary Year of the Arts Society Bishop's Stortford, our next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th September** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA) with coffee available from 10.00am. Our speaker is Imogen Corrigan on *Albrecht Durer*.



He came from Nuremberg and took centre stage in the world of art when most artistic attention was focused on Italy or the Netherlands. We know much about him because he was the first German artist to write

about his own life and the first to write on the theory of art, as well as creating it. Only his contemporary, Leonardo da Vinci, bears comparison with him in these achievements.

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

Michael Fitch

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 1st Sep

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

Small Pleasures

by Clare Chambers

Jean Swinney is an 40 year old unmarried journalist disappointed in love, who lives a limited existence with her truculent mother. When asked to investigate a bizarre virgin birth claim, Jean's life is turned upside

All Welcome Tel 813056



7.30 pm Thu 3rd Sep

Touchpoint

Saffron Walden Bridge End Gardens by Liz Lake

Visitors Welcome Entry £3
Refreshments from 7.15 pm

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE BAT WALK

7 pm Fri 4th Sep

Providing it is not raining

Frances and Steven provide a fascinating insight into the lives of bats, which typically fly around the trees and catch flies over the lily pond and fishing lake
Monitoring Devices provided

Entry Free. Collection for Essex Bat Group

Please register your interest in advance
email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

1	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
3	Thu	Local History Society	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
4	Fri	Business Forum	Kings Arms 7 - 9 am
		Bat Walk	Easton Lodge 7 pm
6	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
8	Tue	The Arts Society BS	South Mill Arts 10.40 am
		RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Cntr 7.30 pm
9	Wed	Link copy due in today before noon	
10	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
11	Fri	Hill Chilli	31 Chapel Hill 7 pm
13 & 27	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Pak 1 - 5 pm
13	Sun	Bingo Afternoon	St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
16	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
19	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
20	Sun	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
25	Fri	Macmillan Coffee	Old Lane Hse, Church Rd 10.30 am

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 8th Sep

South Mill Arts

Albrecht Durer by Imogen Corrigan

In spite of most artistic attention
being on the Netherlands and Italy,
Durer took centre stage

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



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 8th Sep

Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA

Peter Holden

The sights and sounds of garden
birds and their needs

Visitors welcome, entry £5

Tel: Peter 07876 295456

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon

Sat 19th Sep

Ugley Village Hall

Fruit & Veg ~ Eggs

Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb ~ Houseplants

Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam

Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants

Refillable Laundry and Edible Products

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For info and future dates tel 814052

Macmillan Cancer Support

Come and join
Stansted's own



10.30 am Fri 25th Sep

Old Lane House, Church Road

Raffle ~ Cake Stall

Bring and Buy

All Welcome Tel: 813172



Stansted Evening W I

7.30 pm Thu 10th Sep

Touchpoint

Changing Seasons Floral
Demonstration
by Heather Cann

Visitors Welcome Entry £3



Family Bingo Afternoon

2 pm Sun 13th Sep

St Theresa's Parish Centre

Bingo books £5 each

Pay on the door

For more information tel 850209

Email: davidmorson20@gmail.com

Bring your own food and drink

Plenty of free parking



Green Waste Skip Dates

Sundays 1 - 5 pm

13th & 27th Sep

11th & 25th Oct

Lower Street Car Park



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7pm Fri 11th Sep

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Bring your own drink

Tickets £10 on the door All Welcome

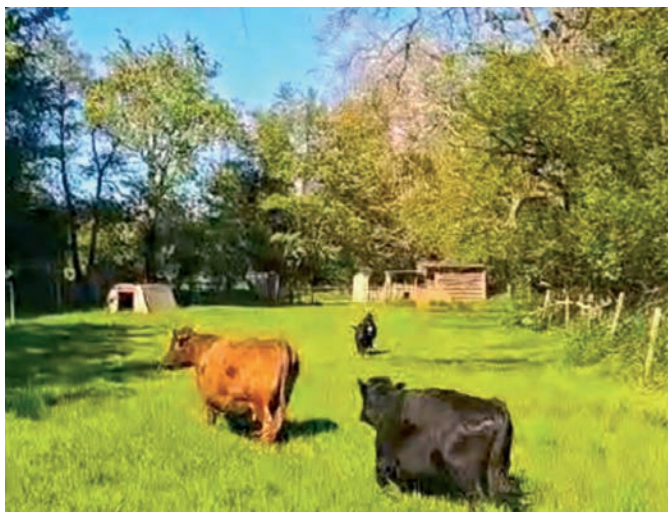
Proceeds to St John's Church Hall



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Come and have fun on the farm this September and bring your friends. We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a picnic area, den building, a splashing stream, a woodland trail to explore, themed crafts, refreshments, ice creams and lots of animals to see; we now have pony rides too. We still have lots of babies of all sorts everywhere: chicks, ducklings, lambs and kid goats who love a cuddle; they all love our visitors! Entry is £6 adults, under 1s free and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family.



We also have our fabulous woodland campsite; you can stay in the woodland area or in our camper and caravan paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. These include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and their babies. What a fabulous holiday and all for just £25 a night. Please book through our website, thank you. We are open 9.00am-4.00pm weekdays, 10.00am-4.00pm weekends. The holidays might be coming to an end, but the fun does not have to! There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all, so do be sure to come and see us. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN. Please always check our website for the latest information.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

FLOWERS ON THE WAR MEMORIAL

I am sure many people will have noticed that for the last two months there have been no flowers in the containers on the War Memorial. Obviously that decision has been made because of the extreme heat. The Memorial faces the full force of the sun. We have many wonderful volunteers who love doing the flowers, but I am sure they all realise that the flowers will die very quickly at the moment. The flowers are a very important part of remembering the people of Stansted Mountfitchet who sacrificed their lives in two World Wars.

As soon as it cools down, I will restart the rota for September and October and of course for Remembrance Sunday on **8th November**. Thank you so much to all the volunteers. I am always very happy to hear from anyone who would like to help.



Janet Hollis
Email: janhollis@btinternet.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI

It was a very hot and humid evening for our July meeting which meant there were fewer members present and the speaker was also unable to attend. The agenda for the meeting was quickly changed, and we were able to discuss forthcoming events. Top of the list was the Windmill Fête on Bank Holiday Monday and special requests were made for volunteers to make cakes and help serve refreshments on the day. We had discussions following advice from Uttlesford District Council regarding a safety management system when providing refreshments for charitable events. This included various checklists for hygiene and allergens, for example. The documentation is prepared! We had our tea and cakes in the Touchpoint garden where there was a welcome breeze with time to chat and catch up with friends. Following our usual raffle and competition, a lovely relaxed evening drew to a close.

WI Day is on **Wednesday 16th September**. In partnership with English Heritage, the WIs from Essex, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk are joining forces and taking over Audley End with free flow access to the house and gardens. There are special tours and events arranged. Some of our members are able to attend this event.



The great hall at Audley End House

A total of £56 has been donated to Hearing Help, a local charity. This money is from an ongoing small coin collection which is collected monthly. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 10th September** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. Heather Cann will be giving a floral demonstration entitled *Changing Seasons*. We welcome visitors and new members to our meetings, so please do come and join us.

Christine Morris
Email: chris2.morris@btinternet.com



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place is open every **Friday** from 9.15am-11.30 am, in the Free Church Hall, and continues to be a popular meeting place. All ages are welcome, although particularly suitable for children. We look forward to seeing our regular visitors, and a warm welcome is given to newcomers.



Parents, grandparents, carers, children and all age visitors are welcome to drop in. The children have plenty of space to run around and play with the toys. Everyone enjoys the sing-along at around 10.30am. Adults chat over coffee in a relaxed atmosphere. 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

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the July draw:

£200	No 103	June Winter
£100	No 100	Christopher Bone
£ 50	No 67	Janet Hollis
£ 25	No 193	Darren Salisbury

The draw for September will be held on **27th September** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available for anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. 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@t

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

www.macmillan.org.uk

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

We will be holding our annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan on **Friday 25th September** from 10.30am at Old Lane House, Church Road. There will be a cake stall, bring and buy sale and a raffle. Please support this worthy cause; everyone is welcome.

Christine and Bill Stiles

Tel: 813172



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

Hopefully you are reading this ahead of the late August Bank Holiday Monday, so if you do not have the Windmill Fête entered on your calendar or diary, there is still time to come along on **31st August** between 1.00pm-5.00pm. For further details, please see the August edition of The Link. We hope to have all the repaired shutters back in the sails so that they are back in balance and can be turned at the fête, winds permitting. The photograph below shows recent repairs; thanks to a resident who lives close to the windmill for sending it to us.



Entry to the fête is free and we have a wristband system for the attractions on The Rec which represents great value compared to what it would cost you if you took the family to Clacton or Southend for the day. You can pay for the wristbands with a card, but you will need cash for the stalls. You can explore the mill on the fête day, and we are also open to visitors on **Sunday 6th September** 1.30pm-5.00pm. Entry: adults £3, children £1.

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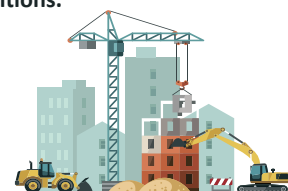

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September entertainment

Cinema

Catch live screenings and recent blockbusters on the big screen this autumn. See *Aida* on **Sunday 6th** and *Turandot* on **Sunday 20th** at 2.00pm. Award-winner Sandra Oh plays the title role in NT Live: *The Misanthrope* on **Tuesday 22nd** at 7.00pm. Or catch *The Odyssey* on **Tuesday 15th** at 7.00pm and **Wednesday 16th** at 2.00pm. *The Invite* is on **Tuesday 15th** at 2.00pm and **Wednesday 16th** at 7.00pm.

Live music

Introducing the Stortford Jazz Lounge, powered by *The Essex Jazz Collective*. They usually perform as a 6-piece vibrant jazz ensemble, making for an exciting night out. They will be in the Theatre Lounge on various dates this autumn. Starting off is the talented *Amanda Marie* on **Tuesday 8th** at 7.30pm.

Live theatre

Jane Eyre's fight for freedom, happiness and a sense of belonging is brought to the stage by Conn Artists Theatre Co on **Thursday 10th** at 7.30pm. A perfect theatre production for those studying the text for GCSE.



If you love animals, then you are going to love this show. On **Saturday 12th** at 11.00am and 2.00pm *Amazing Animals* will be celebrating all creatures great and small. The heart-warming show, packed full of music, comedy and amazing animal effects is suitable for toddlers to grown-ups.

Delve into the history of the shipping forecast and the extraordinary people who made it with *Attention All Shipping* on **Thursday 24th** at 7.30pm.

On **Monday 28th** at 7.30pm England football hero, *Sir Geoff Hurst*, is back for a short tour. Enjoy an evening with the legend who scored a hat trick to enable England to win the World Cup in 1966. Meet and greet tickets are available. For more information about everything that is happening at South Mill Arts this season, please see our website.

Seren Stephens
Tel: 710200

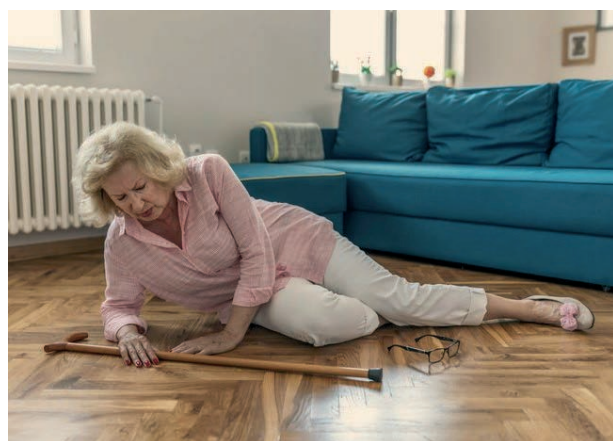
Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk

BRAIN TRAINING

Fall prevention summary

Here is a summary of ways to reduce falling and, if you do fall or trip, how to fall less disastrously:

1. Feel your feet. Walk barefoot, walk or rub your feet on a variety of surfaces so sensations are clear
2. Keep your feet strong and flexible. Strengthen weak arches
3. Keep your legs strong with the aim of being able to get up off the floor. Weak legs increase fear of falling
4. Good peripheral vision. When looking forwards whilst walking, the ground must be clear in your peripheral vision so you are aware of potential hazards like kerbs, steps, tree roots or uneven ground
5. Practise moving your feet very fast. Deliberately tip yourself forwards and take as many rapid steps as possible, bam bam bam on the floor. Also practise taking a very big step, landing with a thump on a flexible leg
6. Full falling practice: making sure you can get up, maybe have something solid by you to help. Start flat on the floor, then get up in your best way. Go back down the same way as you got up.
7. Sit on the floor with legs tucked in beside you and collapse onto the floor, using your arms like a crumple zone, so they help you glide into the floor
8. Re-balance your vestibular system
9. Roll around on the floor, make friends with it. The point is to reduce panic. The more the brain is used to the floor, the lower the levels of panic and disastrous tightening up
10. The arms and legs are crumple zones. You can practise falling against a wall, falling through your fingertips to flat hands, bendy wrists and elbows, so you flow into the wall. This can also be practised from kneeling.



Ten things to do! Daunted? Well, make a start, eg walk barefoot, get all the way down onto the floor, use your legs, bend your knees!

Clare Harding
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IN THE GARDEN

It is time to order those bulbs ready for planting in October and November. Hopefully by the time you read this we will have had some rain and you might be able to do some digging to get them in the ground!



It is my goal in every garden I design to cover all the boundaries with green; it makes your garden seem bigger. These can be hedges, tall plants or climbers. In small gardens it might be the only thing you have space for. I have a huge white wisteria on the front of my house which is a joy to behold when in flower and is a monster to be tamed the rest of the growing season. Wisterias like plenty of sun, need lots of space; a pergola or house wall is ideal. They often take years to flower so it is best to buy them in May when you can see flower buds on them. Russian vine is one to be avoided; as Alan Titchmarsh once said *It's great at covering buildings, like cathedrals!*

For shady fences or walls, *Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris* is a favourite along with *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, a wonderful scented evergreen climber with small white flowers that will tolerate some shade. *Clematis macropetala* has beautiful pale blue nodding flowers early in the year and *Parthenocissus tricuspidata* or *quinquefolia* have stunning autumn colour. *Parthenocissus* take a bit of shade too although colours up better in sun. *Akebia quinata* is tolerant of a range of conditions and a reliable performer. For a sunny boundary there are plenty of clematis to try and honeysuckle gives you fabulous scent although be aware some of them are rampant, read the label! Roses have their place but are hard work and only look great when they are flowering; if you must have one, David Austin are best.

Anthea Harrison
Email: anthea154@googlemail.com

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We have been thrilled that people are still enjoying their visits, despite the drought. There are lots of features and plants in the Gardens that still look good; roses, lavender, *nepeta* and *gaura* are all beautiful and really tough! On Thursdays throughout the summer, visitors really appreciate the shady areas, ambling along and using the many benches dotted around the Gardens. Families play our garden games in the shade, and love the additional activities we provide on the Sunday open days.

On **Friday 4th September** at 7.00pm there will be a Bat Walk, providing it is not raining. The event is free but there will be a collection for the Essex Bat Group. The Gardens are open on Thursdays 11.00am-3.00pm, last entry 2.00pm, until the end of October. Discounted advance tickets can be bought from trybooking.com or via our website.

We will have enough apples, pears, jams and jellies to ensure that our Apple and Bees open day on **Sunday 20th September** 11.00am-5.00pm is as good as ever. There will be apple and beeswax craft activities for children, an apple and honey cake tasting stall, local producers of cider and gin and fun songs from Bishop's Stortford Ukelele Society.



We are now turning our thoughts to how we ensure the Gardens will continue to look good in future droughts and heatwaves. We do not have a mains water supply, so we are rethinking our water storage arrangements, in the hope we will have lots of rain over winter to fill it!

We are starting to plan the autumn planting. This year we planted two bays in the kitchen garden with robust perennials, which are doing well; a pink one including *achillea*, *alstroemeria* and *Sedum spurium* and a blue one with delphiniums, scabiosa, verbena and geraniums.

Jill Goldsmith
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The magic begins

Monty Don has dug up his Charlotte potatoes, so it is time for us to do the same. The surprise of finding these beauties is always a joy. We must thank the French for developing this lovely spud in 1981, so it is a fairly recent addition to the potato family. Digging them up has given us space to plant some late-harvesting vegetables which can be planted at the end of summer, so seedlings of cauliflower are going in as soon as possible. Hopefully we can harvest them when everything else has done its job.



We have steadily been planting other quick growing produce such as radish, lettuce, beetroot and, a first for us, pak choi. We have definitely needed a second wave of some plants; we lost a few during the second heatwave despite our watering efforts, but all is not lost and we are watching those yummy squashes grow.

We have already started donating our produce to Touchpoint Charity for their food share programme, and we really hope to beat last year's record donation. Human Roots entered the Anglia in Bloom competition, and the judges attended the plot in early July. They enjoyed walking around the allotment, and thought the scarecrows looked amazing and scary enough to keep the pigeons and crows away! We try to meet up once a week, attending the allotment throughout the year, which includes picking our lovely produce. If you are interested in joining the team, please email Cathy at humanrootscommunity@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

ST THERESA'S BINGO

Everyone is very welcome to come to our Bingo afternoon on **Sunday 13th September** at 2.00pm in St Theresa's Church Hall, High Lane. We will be raising money for the hall maintenance fund. The cost of each book is £5. Pay at the door, and please bring your own food and drink. See you there! For further details, please contact me.

David Morson
Tel: 850209

We always encourage people to visit parish churches; they are usually the oldest building in any community and their interiors have great variety. I will discuss one particular feature: the screen which forms a partition, both physically and symbolically, between the laity or congregation in the nave, the main part of the church and the clergy in the chancel. The screen, sometimes referred to as a chancel screen, often has a lattice design to allow people worshipping in the nave to see through into the chancel. Chancel comes from a Latin word meaning lattice.

Several of our churches have finely-carved 15th century wooden screens including Albury, Finchingfield, Henham, Manuden and Wendens Ambo. Some screens are called rood screens. Above these screens is a *rood* which is a representation of Christ's crucifixion, usually flanked by two saints, most often Mary and St John. Rood is a Saxon word meaning cross.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of rood screens. They are usually carved in wood such as the one in Little Canfield, believed to date from the 14th century. However, in Stebbing and Great Bardfield parish churches, both dedicated to St Mary, the 14th century screens are carved in stone. This is an extremely rare feature.



Little Canfield rood screen

A carved 15th century wooden screen can be found in Sawbridgeworth's Church of Great St Mary with a depiction above it of the risen Christ, installed as recently as 2000. The Church of Holy Trinity at Takeley has a relatively modern rood screen, installed around 1910 and featuring a wooden carving of Christ on the cross with a saint on each side.

I have named just some examples around The Hundred Parishes. Please explore our local churches, perhaps while following one of the walk descriptions that can be downloaded from our website.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226
Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I love the Harvest Season. It is such a special time of year. Many churches will be beautifully decorated with collections of food or money for those less fortunate; but why do we do this? Harvest traces its roots back to the Old Testament, specifically Leviticus 23 verses 9-22 when God, through Moses, established the first harvest. Lots of lessons here; that we have stewardship and not ownership of the earth, and that the same should be shared, not just with those we know, but also with those who are different from us, such as the foreigner and the poor in Leviticus 23 verse 22. We should remember that God's bounty is for all.

Meeting physical needs is necessary but is not sufficient. We need to go to the root cause of selfishness in man which believes it is acceptable to hoard whilst others starve. This is where Jesus comes in. He is sent to show us how to live and how to love; to remind us that a spiritual, as well as a physical harvest is needed. So here at Stansted Free Church we want to share God's bounty and God's love as best we can. Being a Christian is so much more than a doctrine or creed. It has to be about how we live, how we love, and what we can do together to build God's Kingdom in this place we call home.

Maybe this thoughtful compassionate Christianity is something you are looking for? If so, please come and join us one Sunday at 10.30am. You will find a warm welcome and a loving community; open hearts and open minds, seeking to be sincere disciples of Jesus who proclaimed his father's love for all.



Rev'd Chris Wilson
Minister
Stansted Free Church



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Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

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

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6.00pm Mass

Sunday 8.30am Mass
10.00am Mass

Wednesday 12.30pm Mass

Baptisms: by appointment



STANSTED QUAKERS

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
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www.stansted.quakermeeting.org

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

Lettings Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
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Sunday worship 10.30am. Visitors are always welcome. We join together in stillness for an hour, followed by coffee and chat. Quakers allow each person to explore their own experience of the divine. We try to live our faith in everyday life, with a dedication to peace, simplicity, truth, equality, and nature.

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





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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

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

Preachers for September

6th 10.30am Rev'd David Mullins - Church Anniversary
13th 10.30am Rev'd Chris Wilson - Communion
20th 10.30am Babs Ward
27th 10.30am Rev'd Chris Wilson

Welcome

At the beginning of this month, we warmly welcome our new minister Rev'd Chris Wilson and his wife Sandra. As with our previous minister, Chris will lead worship at Stansted on the second Sunday plus other Sundays occasionally. Chris has written September's *Thought for the Month*.

House Church

On Sunday 2nd August our worshippers experienced something very different. We had no electricity at the church as we had our meter moved from its highly inaccessible location under the stone stairs in the tower to a meter box on the wall outside the church. Therefore we met for worship in our house!



It was a new experience for some of them but they all seemed to enjoy it and stayed chatting over refreshments afterwards. Luckily we could just get all 17 people in a horseshoe so that everyone could see each other as well as the worship leaders who were taking the service that day.



Hopefully we will never have to repeat the experience as a lot of planning was needed, but it showed us that there are some advantages to being a small congregation!



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Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

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

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

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

There were no entries from St John's Registers in July.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

Our new season commences on **Thursday 3rd September** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint, with a talk by Liz Lake on *Saffron Walden Bridge End Gardens*. Liz is the well-known principal and founder of Liz Lake Associates who are specialists in landscape architecture and design. Ms Lake will give a talk about her work and, no doubt, problems in relation to this specialist architectural field. We look forward to this talk immensely. Full details of our speakers for the year as well as other information can be found on our website. It will be an interesting programme of talks covering a variety of topics. We also hope to have an annual outing to an interesting venue. This June we had a very enjoyable summer outing to Hatfield House. It was organised by Janice McDonald and attended by over 30 members.

Refreshments will be served prior to the talk, so we would recommend everyone to arrive early and enjoy the opportunity for conversation. Members' subscriptions are unchanged at £15 for the full season, and £3 for day visitors. We look forward to welcoming back all our existing members and extend a warm welcome to new people who wish to join.

Edward Taub
Email: taub8j@icloud.com



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

Some tips to help you save energy and money

We want to help you to save energy and money. Strong heat and sunlight have dominated our weather in recent months, but winter will surely follow. You can take steps now to save money by reducing the energy you use at home. Please see our helpful tips below.



For further details, you can visit the websites of the well-respected Energy Saving Trust, or gov.uk/save-energy or Which? You can also follow our Facebook page or website. Sustainable Stansted is a group of volunteers that wants to combat the climate crisis. We usually meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome. Interested? If so, please get in touch.

Bob Burlton
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com



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As a small volunteer-run charity, we simply cannot absorb these rising costs alone. That is why we are asking our wonderful community to help us continue the work we love, because every cat deserves a happily ever after, and maybe a few extra treats. Your support means more:

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Every donation, no matter the size, helps us keep our doors open and our cats safe. Whether you give a one-off gift, become a monthly sponsor, or simply share our appeal, you are helping us change lives, one purr at a time. Thank you for believing in us, supporting us, and helping Toe Beans stay strong for the cats who need us.

Shirley Johnson
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BEEKEEPING



Meet Winnie

This summer has certainly tested our honeybees. After a fantastic start to the season, the long hot, dry weather has created some real challenges; many of the usual summer flowers have struggled. With less rain, many plants have produced fewer flowers and less nectar, meaning the bees have had to work much harder to find enough food. One hive that shows this perfectly is Winnie, which is our garden observation hive and has a special story. Installed in 2020 during the unusual days of lockdown, Winnie became one of our Covid babies. The hive was occupied for three years and the colony did extremely well. Unfortunately, like all wild colonies, things do not always go to plan. The bees eventually failed to raise a new queen and the hive was empty until this spring.

After clearing away years of brambles and refreshing the natural lure inside the hive, we were delighted when a new swarm discovered Winnie and moved in. It has been wonderful to watch a new bee family begin its journey. However, the dry summer has slowed their progress. At this point in the season Winnie would normally be close to full, but the colony has currently filled around three-quarters of the available space. With some much-needed rain and a late burst of flowers, there is still plenty of hope that they will build enough stores before winter.



Over the next few months, I will be introducing more of the *Eco Beehive* family. Each hive now has its own name and character. To avoid confusion, each month I will follow four special hives in more detail: *Winnie*, *Jet*, *Goldie* and *Hawthorn*, with occasional updates from other hives when something interesting happens. Every hive has a story; I look forward to sharing theirs with you.

Kevin Hancock
Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com

HILL CHILLI

Come to the Hill Chilli at Sonia's, 31 Chapel Hill, on **Friday 11th September** 7.00pm onwards, for an evening of fun, friends and food. Veggie option available. Bring your drink of choice. Entry £10 on the door. All proceeds to St John's Church Hall.

Sonia Levy
Tel: 815282



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

Stansted 1st XI are gathering momentum heading into the final games of the season, starting with a dominant win over Takeley CC. Some excellent variation from Jon Cooper reduced Takeley to 56-7, Cooper finishing with 5-31 from his 8 overs. A late tail-end rally saw Takeley bowled out for 140, but Stansted made light work of the chase, reaching the target in just 21 overs without losing a wicket. Dan Hanna and Jack Cope both hit unbeaten half-centuries.

A narrow 9-run defeat to Thorley CC followed, although there was plenty to celebrate as young debutant Remi Peterson impressed with 3 wickets from his 8 overs. Stansted then put an end to their struggles at Potter Street in style. Despite a strong start from the home side, Matt Cope and son Jack turned the game around spectacularly, taking 9 wickets between them. Matt finished with 4 wickets from 8 overs, while Jack claimed 5-30 from 6.3 overs as Potter Street were bowled out for 195.



Jack, Ryan and Matt Cope

The Hanna brothers then set about the chase, with Reece producing one of the shots of the season, launching a low full toss over the bowler's head and beyond the Potter Street Café! Dan Hanna anchored the innings with a superb 72, while the middle order chipped away to see Stansted home by 4 wickets with 15 overs to spare.

Stansted 2nd XI have continued their impressive form with an exhilarating 4-run victory over Sawbridgeworth CC 4th XI. Adam Curtis was the star with the ball, taking 4 wickets for just 10 runs from 5.3 overs. Ryan Cope has also impressed recently, scoring an unbeaten 75 and taking 3 wickets against Dunmow CC 4th XI. Currently 5th in Division 4, Dave Powder's side look set to secure another season in the division.



Emiel Pronk
Email: emiel.pronk@icloud.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

This month the Parish Council is seeking views on play equipment at the Recreation Ground and provides an update on preparations for the planning inquiry into City and Country's controversial housing project proposed for Green Belt land, south of Stansted.

Consultation: Recreation Ground Play Equipment

Last year, the Parish Council removed the treehouse at the Recreation Ground after it became unsafe due to vandalism and weather damage. Since then, the Open Spaces Committee has shortlisted replacement play equipment for young people aged 8–13. Before making a final recommendation, the committee would like to hear residents' views.

The options are shown opposite. The Parish Council would like to field views on which of the items would have the most benefit for young users, rather than cost. For this reason pricing information hasn't been displayed. Further information, including technical specifications, is available on our website and in printed form at the Mountfitchet Exchange. Youth Councillors have also been gathering feedback from local children and young people. Please rank your top three choices using the number shown for each option, listing them in order of preference (1–3). You can send your choices to us either by:

- Email or post
- Leaving a comment under related posts on the Parish Council website
- Or responding to our online consultation to be communicated via the SMPC website and social media channels.

Contact details are provided on page 23.

The consultation closes on **Thursday, 3 October 2026.**

Residents' feedback will be considered alongside value for money, maintenance requirements, durability, and resistance to vandalism and weather before the Open Spaces Committee makes its final decision.



5 Crazy Poles XL
7-14+ years



13m

6 Children's Inline Ninja Trail
14 activities
24 users



7.86m

7 MultiPlay Balancing & Climbing Activities
8+ years
22 users



8.48m

8 The Cobweb Climbing Frame
7-16 years



12.4m

Seating and Tables

SMPC would also like to hear your preferences for new tables and seating for both the Bentfield Green Play area and the Recreation Ground.

9 Waddington Wheelchair Accessible Picnic Table
98% recycled materials



Seats 6 people including 1 wheelchair space

10 Clifton Wheelchair Accessible Picnic Table
Environmentally friendly materials



Seats 5 people including 1 wheelchair space

11 Wheelchair Accessible Picnic Table
Made from Recycled Plastic



Seats 6 people including 1 wheelchair space

12 Round Wheelchair Accessible Table
Made from Recycled Plastic



Seats 6 people plus 1 wheelchair space or 4 people 2 wheel chairs

Stanhanger Planning Inquiry

Eight-day hearing to start this autumn



A number of important developments have taken place since Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council was informed in June that the Government had called in Uttlesford District Council's refusal of City & Country's proposals to build 480 homes on Green Belt land between Stansted Mountfitchet and Birchanger,

- **Date Set:** A provisional date has been set for Tuesday, 3rd November. Eight days have been set aside to hear evidence.
- **Inspector appointed:** The Inquiry will be led by an independent Planning Inspector, who will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State.
- **Rule 6 Application:** Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, along with Birchanger Parish Council and the Stansted & Birchanger Green Belt Preservation Group (BGBPG), and Birchanger Residents' Association has successfully applied for Rule 6 status. This allows community groups and local councils to take a formal role in the inquiry alongside the developer and Uttlesford District Council.
- **Statement of Case:** The Parish Council has been formulating its Statement of Case, setting out why it believes the proposals should be refused. This in turn will shape a Statement of Common Ground, identifying the facts the main parties —both for and against the scheme— agree on and, importantly, the issues that remain in dispute. This helps the Inquiry focus on the matters that the Planning Inspector must decide.

Professional help sought

The Parish Council has appointed planning and highways experts to present its case this autumn to give the community the best chance of success at the Inquiry. Specialist expertise is expensive, with fees running into tens of thousands of pounds. A fundraising campaign is already underway, with over £10,000 raised. The Parish Council will cover any remaining costs not met by the BGBPG's GoFundMe campaign. But if you are able to, please consider making a contribution.

 [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)

Country Park at Walpole Meadows 2

Bloor recommit to community asset in the north of Stansted

In other planning news affecting the village, housing developer Bloor Homes has told the Parish Council it plans to include a country park in its scheme for 270 homes on land north of Walpole Meadows. The developer intends to resubmit an outline planning application to Uttlesford District Council before the end of the summer.

The 8.76-hectare public park was removed from Bloor's original 2024 application after planning officials said it was unnecessary, given the developer's other proposed contributions to the local community. However, the planning inspectorate made approval of the District Council's Local Plan conditional on a community park being delivered alongside the new homes to be built at the Walpole Meadows site, near the B1383 roundabout. The Local Plan was approved in March 2026.

Stansted Skate Park Jam 2026

The far end of the Lower Street car park will be a veritable hive of action with food vans, music and lots of young (and not so young)



skateboarders, skaters and bikers descending on the skate park as it hosts the annual Skate Jam on Sunday, 6th September:

- 11am — Under 10s
- 11.30am — Scooter
- 12.45pm — Inline
- 2pm — Skateboard
- 3.30pm — BMX

The parish council would like to thank Seann Thompson for once again pulling in sponsorship, and organising and hosting this year's Jam.

Help Make Our Roads Safer!

Speeding has been identified as the biggest road safety concern in Stansted, with High Lane and Church



Road highlighted as hotspots where motorists regularly exceed the 30mph limit.

If you would like to help make our roads safer, why not volunteer with SpeedWatch? The Stansted team has disbanded after members moved away, and new volunteers are needed to restart the initiative.

SpeedWatch volunteers use speed monitoring equipment to record vehicles exceeding the limit, with details passed to the Police for review and possible action. Drivers significantly over the limit may receive warning letters or tickets.

No experience is needed, and training is provided by Essex Police, who also oversee the team.

To find out more about becoming a SpeedWatch volunteer, please contact:

 info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Grove Hill September Roadworks

Carriageway resurfacing will see Essex Highways close Grove Hill for 8 days at the end of the month. Works will take place at the foot (24-26 Sept) and at the top (25 Sept-1 Oct) of the hill. For more information:



 www.essexhighways.org

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

♥ **Clerk** Ruth Clifford

♥ **Deputy Clerk** Emma Philbrick

♥ **Communications Officer** Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

Answer phone: After 2pm Monday-Friday and at weekends

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

Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Website: www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil

Instagram: @stanstedparishcouncil

Parish Councillors

Ryan ACKERMAN | ☎ 07557677995

ryanackerman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

♥ **Alan BARNES** | ☎ 817214

alanbarnes@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

George BRAECKMAN | ☎ 07981203831

georgebraeckman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

♥ **Maureen CATON** | ☎ 813914

Chair of SMPC

maureencaton@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

♥ **Jamie GARDNER** | ☎ 07956255334

jamiegardner@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

♥ **Sophie GEE**

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♥ **Joanna KAVANAGH** | ☎ 815157

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♥ **Ayub KHAN** | ☎ 815800

Vice Chair of SMPC

ayubkhan@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

♥ **John O'BRIEN** | ☎ 816772

johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL | ☎ 815925

cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Colin WARE | ☎ 07722438067

colin.ware@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

There are no meetings in August.

Uttlesford District Councillors

Alan DEAN

☎ 813579 email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL

☎ 815925 email: cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: cllrGOODING@uttlesford.gov.uk

Nick CHURCH

email: cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Councillor

Ray Gooding

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

Member Of Parliament

Kemi BADENOCH MP

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

email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

Police PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART

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

Mountfitchet Exchange (72 Chapel Hill):

Thursday, 17th September – 6-7pm

TouchPoint (72 Chapel Hill):

Monday, 14th September – 11am-noon

Thursday, 24th September – 10am-noon

Advice Sessions

Uttlesford Citizens Advice run a FREE drop-in service at the Mountfitchet Exchange every Thursday from 9.30am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions.

An advisor is also on hand via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9.30am-1pm.

The **Peabody Trust's** drop-in service—also at the Mountfitchet Exchange—is on **Thursday, 10th September** from 11am-3pm.

Advisors can help with benefits, evictions, rent arrears, debt.

TouchPoint, Stansted

The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill up your larder for free.

Food shares Crafton Green Wednesdays 5-5.30pm;

Thursdays 10am-2pm, Fridays 1-2pm and Saturdays 10-11am

Community Cafe Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-noon

Free hot meals on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm

Breakfast Club every Friday 9am-10am

Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

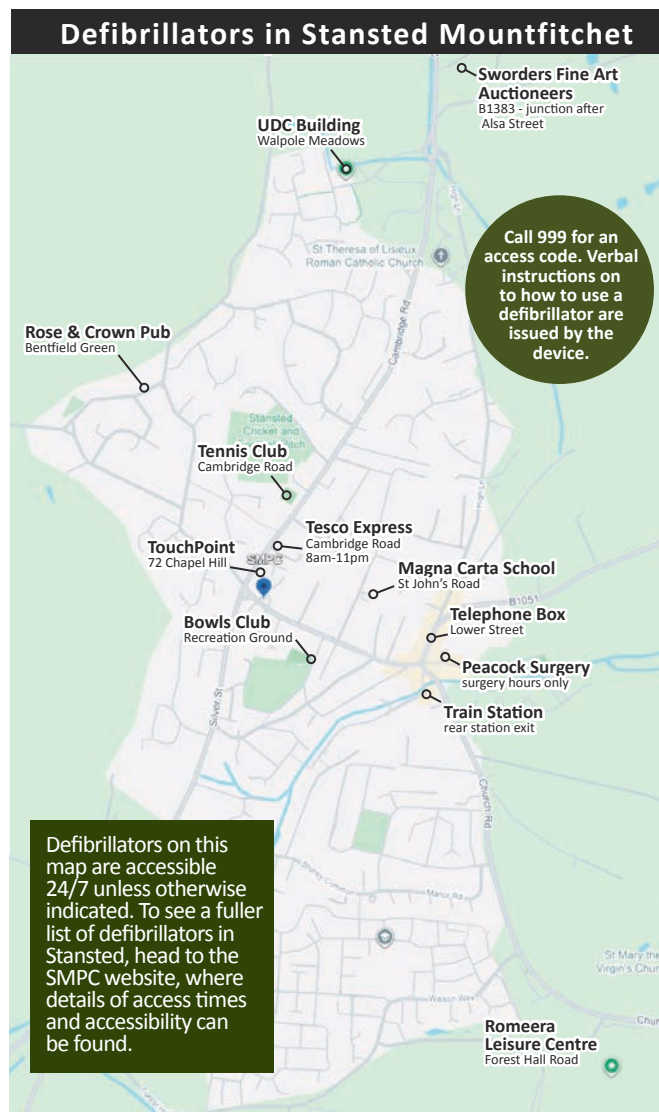
Garden Waste Skip Service

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Sunday 13th September

Sunday 27th September



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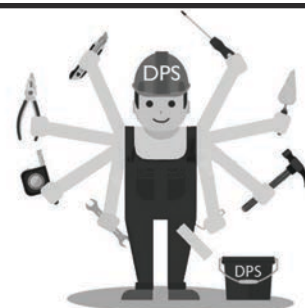
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A very special garden

Our garden might be small, but it certainly packs a punch. The origins of our Club can be traced back to 1889, but the garden was introduced much later when hard courts and the existing clubhouse were built. It is the first thing people see from Cambridge Road approaching the Club; when locals walk by, they regularly stop to say how lovely the hanging baskets look. The hard work maintaining the garden is down to Ash Huggonson and Ginette Basten (pictured). They are both long-serving members who love playing tennis, but their other passion is gardening. Ginette and Ash really enjoy working as a team and are very good friends. They enjoy trips to local nurseries swapping ideas for plants and flowers; this year they have even introduced a few vegetables.

Ginette particularly likes the hanging baskets, with the Wimbledon colours very much the theme for this year. Ash prefers the sunflowers which are vibrant and full of colour. They are planning another lavender plant next year to help attract pollinators, as bees love them; lavender tolerates drought conditions well.



This year, for the first time, the garden has been entered into the Anglia in Bloom competition, and the results are due in late September. A lot of hard work and effort goes into making the garden look so lovely, with watering sometimes twice a day, especially this summer, taking a lot of time, effort and organisation. The Club and local community benefit equally, and on behalf of the committee I want to thank them both for their voluntary work and commitment. Personally speaking, every time I walk through the gate the garden makes me smile.

Jon Budd

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Unbelievably the football season 2026-27 has already kicked off for our first team, with all the other age groups beginning their campaigns this month. It seems the close season gets shorter each year and whilst the World Cup was going on our First Team Management were conducting pre-season training and trials for players retained from last season. These players and new additions will form the backbone of our squad as we start the season.

The Thurlow Nunn South Division looks highly competitive and in a division of 21 teams there certainly will be a lot of games to be played. With the success of our youth section in prior seasons, the Club have taken the opportunity to start an Under 23s side, playing on Saturday afternoons in the Essex Olympian League Division Three. This is a great opportunity for players who are no longer able to play at the age group under 18 to move into men's football as their next step in their football development.

Our other youth sections will also naturally move up a year with the younger groups now playing 9- and even 11-a-side matches for the first time. With special thanks to the Stansted Airport Community Fund, who made a significant donation to the Club, we were able to purchase the *Veo Camera System*; recordings of games are played to the teams in order to identify areas for improvement and development. Finally, our over 45s are looking forward to their new season with the majority of their home fixtures being played at Birchanger Social Club.

September fixtures at Hargrave Park:

8 th	FC Baresi	TNS League	KO	7.45pm
12 th	FA Vase	2 nd Qual Rd	KO	3.00pm
19 th	Marcelona	TNS League	KO	3.00pm
26 th	BS Swifts Res	Essex Olympian	KO	2.00pm



Tom Williams
Tel: 07921 403842



RECYCLING



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

Other items

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

Marion and Mike Dyer

Tel: 814059



Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



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BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Bowls Club	David Danby Tel: 07799 722948 Email: daviddanby30@gmail.com	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07368 809138 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geofflay.22@gmail.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Cub Scouts (Tue) Age 8-10½	Huskies Jerry O'Connor stanstedhuskies@gmail.com (Thu) Bulldogs Hazel Crundwell 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs@gmail.com	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted is Well Read	Diana Griffin Tel: 813056 Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Stansted Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 07485 452333 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	u3a	Susan Sedgbeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Stansted)	Jenny Wraith Tel: 816524
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Lorraine Hayes Tel: 814242 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		
Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

Index to Advertisers

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

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the osteopath



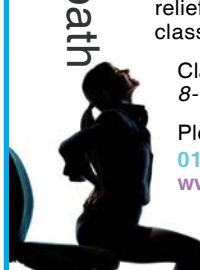
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