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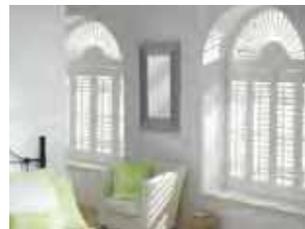
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 by Paul Burt Photography

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

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CONTENTS

Churches	Friends of St Mary's Church	15	Local Roundup	A J Campbell Debut Novel	13
	Stansted Family Church	14		B S and District Footpaths	31
	Stansted Free Church	15		Ugly Farmers' Market	27
	Stansted Quaker Meeting	14		Gardens of Easton Lodge	23
	St John's 300 club	15		Hundred Parishes	37
	St John's Church	15		Stansted Business Forum	11
	St Theresa's Catholic Church	14		Stansted Churches Scrub Hub	2
	Thought for the Month	14		Stansted Day Centre	25
Children and Families	Bentfield School	17		Stansted Windmill	3
	Daisy May's Farm	29	Fun and Games	Thank you	25
	Forest Hall School	17		Crossword	9
	Magna Carta School	4		Crossword Answers	29
	Manuden Primary School	5		Characters Quiz	9
	Rainbow Pre-school History	5		Characters Quiz Answers	24
	Stansted Beavers	3	Features	All at Sea	11
Clubs and Community Groups	Directory of Clubs & Organisations	39		A View from the Bench	7
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	33		Bentfield Hucks Aviator	35
	Stansted Evening W I	24		Easton Lodge and Stansted	23
	Stansted is Well Read	3		Editorial	2
	Stansted Social Club	37		Hatfield Forest History	33
	Stansted U3A	31		Living the Life	4
	Stort Valley Rotary	34		The Link Team - Yvonne Ayres	24
	The Place on the Hill	5		Myanmar	27
Advertising	Index to Advertisers	40		Nature Notes	29
	Link Advertising	31		Redundancy - what to know	13
Local Council News	Green Waste Skips	24		Scale Model Boat Making	25
	Stansted Network	19-22		The Windmill - a true Story	3
Fundraising	Recycle Ink Cartridges and Stamps	37	Sports	Stansted Bowls Club	34
	Shoe Boxes	4		Stansted Cricket Club	35
	Stansted Fun Run	27		Stansted Football Club	34
Health and Wellbeing	St Clare Hospice Bereavement Support	25		Stansted Tennis Club	35
	Warm Homes	17	The Arts	Music@stansted	7
				Rhodes Complex	27

CONTRIBUTIONS *Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent as separate attachments (jpeg).*
 By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on **9th August** for the September issue or by hand/post by noon on **7th August** to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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EDITORIAL



The Link team members are so happy to bring you the first printed copy of the magazine since April. As many of you know, we also published an online issue in May, but not many people read it, so we have reprinted a few of the articles from that issue, including Rainbow History on p5. We hope that the magazine will cheer you up as there are some very positive articles this month. Several local public gardens are open and some sports clubs are resuming their outdoor activities; however, it is very sad that many regular events, such as the Stansted Fun Run, have been cancelled due to the powerful and awful virus. The new realities, with face masks and endless queues, are at times difficult to accept, but things are easing slowly; it is great to see shops, hairdressers, gyms, swimming pools, churches, pubs and restaurants opening at last.

We would like to say thank you to Trevor Lloyd for his part in compiling the Local Council News section of The Link over the past few years and we wish him a very happy retirement. We do have an item of sad news to share with you: the death of Roger Wardle, who made so many splendid contributions to The Link with his crosswords. His wife Sheila has kindly given permission for us to use some of his crosswords in the future. Our sincere condolences to his family.

The NHS have been totally amazing during this health crisis; many of us paid tribute by clapping every Thursday evening during the worst of it. To add to our appreciation, the windmill was lit up for some of these evenings in NHS blue. Our stunning front cover photo shows how it looked through the eyes of Paul Burt; many thanks to him for this wonderful picture. Stay safe and happy; there will eventually be an end to this extraordinary pandemic.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN STANSTED SCRUB HUB

In early April, Betty Francis and I set up a group to sew scrubs for medics and carers. Eleven volunteer dressmakers joined, and our first assignment was making over 60 scrub bags from old sheets and pillowcases for St Clare Hospice. We then made contact with Addenbrooke's Hospital; the hub expanded to 18, and in early May we sent our first batch of 14 sets of scrubs and 14 scrub bags with the aim of completing around 40 sets in total.



However, very generous donations to cover the cost of the fabric poured in, enabling us to make many more than the original target, so an appeal for more sewers, not just from the churches, went out. The fabric arrived in huge 115 metre rolls which I, assisted by my husband Mike, cut into kits - an unenviable task!

By the end of May the hub had made 145 sets of scrubs and over 90 scrub bags - an amazing achievement. There were 28 sewers over that time; some came at the beginning and



then moved on to other things, some joined towards the end, many were shielding and happy to have something to occupy the long days, and some were juggling sewing with studying, working or home schooling. They all deserve a very big 'thank you', along with our couriers who distributed and collected sets to those sewers who were shielding and took them to Addenbrookes.

By early June Addenbrooke's had enough scrubs and we were invited to join a new project: possession tote bags. These are used to give relatives the personal possessions of patients who die in hospital. The group has already made 120 bags, and they are very easy to make. This project is ongoing, so if you would like to help, please contact me.



Marion Dyer
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THE WINDMILL - A TRUE STORY



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It was always there, standing so still, looking down on me. It was part of my life and I loved it. Whenever I went out, I remember feeling safe. The base was strong and as the sails never moved it was always dependable.

My errand was to take food to my Dad working at Spaldings, just within sight of the brick drum. As I went up the hill the wind pushed me away from the top. My head felt as if it would come off as I battled against the elements. Finally, I arrived at the top of the hill; my friend the mill was there, looking down on me, so tall, so straight. I looked up at it, and then suddenly the old sail moved; I was stunned, shocked, scared – the sail was coming down to get me. I froze; my legs were rooted to the spot. The sail came nearer; I closed my eyes and thought: “Why now?” Now when I was underneath it; I heard it coming down, out of control, to where I stood. Any minute I was going to be picked up and thrown over the top onto the roofs below. Then I realised that the sail had passed; it had not taken me up into the sky. I ran and ran – my heart was beating, my legs were like rubber. I wanted to hold onto something still: the railings on the Recreation Ground. After that day I never quite trusted the mill as I had before. It was just telling me how pleased it was to see me, to show me that it could do something after all. I looked up at it with different eyes after that, not as a reliable friend, but as an unpredictable one.

Lynda Foster

(This incident occurred in the late 50s, when the windmill had no sails, just a rotating black stick. Lynda was so lucky not to be hurt! Some Stansted residents will recall that the windmill was used for Boy Scouts' meetings at that time. Ed)

STANSTED IS WELL READ

Although we have not been able to meet over the past few months, we have had lots of time for reading and have been keeping in touch and discussing books by email. In June we read *An Unwanted Guest* by Shari Lapena; an Agatha Christie type thriller where various people arrive through a bad snowstorm at a remote inn. As they begin to settle in for a relaxing weekend away, the weather begins to close in and the trapped guests realise there is a killer among them. Our July book was *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. This award-winning love story explores the subtleties of class, the electricity of first love, and the complex entanglements of family and friendship; it has recently been made into a TV drama for the BBC. We hope it won't be too long before we can resume our meetings at the Dog and Duck in Lower Street where we normally meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm, so do get in touch if you would like to join us.



Anne Watson
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Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

I hope this finds everyone in good health and managing to cope with the Government's necessary restrictions during these unusual and difficult times. There is not much to report on the windmill as we are still unable to open, largely due to social distancing restrictions. There is now insufficient time to organise our annual fête for August Bank Holiday Monday this year, but we are still keeping an open mind on the possibility of perhaps having it in late September or early October but of course that will depend on if, and when, the social distancing restrictions are lifted.

Some of you may have noticed the flowers in the wooden planter next to the late Ted Pretty's seat. The planter is one of several made by a local resident and sited at various points around the village. It is being maintained by the Council along with the three tubs at the edge of the chain fence and adds some colour to the site. Whilst on the subject of plants I must once again thank Dot and John Salmon for supplying us with a surprising amount of various plants in aid of the windmill maintenance fund. They are available from outside the front of my house in Millside, just along from the windmill, so please have a look when passing. Any reasonable donation is very welcome and I take this opportunity to thank all those supporters who have already contributed. Stay safe and well.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768



1ST STANSTED BEAVERS

One of our Beavers, Eireann, has been working really hard to complete her Chief Scout Bronze Award. To complete this award, Beavers have to earn at least four activity badges and complete six challenge badges, learning lots of new skills and taking part in adventurous activities, as well as spending a night away from home. I was very lucky to be able to award this to Eireann just before we went into lockdown. None of this would be possible without our brilliant leaders.



Unfortunately, due to lack of leaders, we have had to close two sections in the last year and we are desperately looking for adults to help us. If you have some spare time and might be interested, please contact us for more information. Many thanks.

Angela Madigan
Email: gsl.stansted@hatfieldforestscouts.org.uk



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY

www.magnacartaacademy.org

Who knew paints could be made from berries, beetroot, plants and mustard powder? Children at the school are adapting to life at home by learning how to be resourceful in their lessons. The school set pupils the task of taking part in an art day inspired by nature. They could use anything taken from nature to create their own masterpieces, even experimenting and making paint from natural things.



Headteacher Marios Solomonides said: “We wanted to create a day where teachers did not upload any maths or English lessons to our online programme and, instead, freed up families to create art. We decided on the nature theme because, over the last few months, we have all slowed down a little and started noticing things in nature that we would not normally notice. Most families go on a daily walk and so we wanted to marry this up with the art. We also wanted to remind children and parents that there is more to education than maths and English; art is also important. We hoped that creating nature-inspired art would be a positive thing for their mental health.”

Kelly Clark



SHOE BOXES

Shoe Boxes are not just for Christmas. Well, they are, but the organisation Teams4u is running projects all year round. In Africa, Uganda has some of the heaviest lockdown restrictions, as they fear the spread of Coronavirus through the country. For four years, Teams4u has been providing hand-washing stations at primary schools in the Kumi district, where 60% of households do not have facilities at home. In response to the pandemic, students have been trained to manufacture liquid soap, and additional hand-washing facilities have been provided for food markets and police stations. The aim is to provide hospitals and clinics in the district with these essential items as well. In addition, Teams4u is enabling the manufacture of soap in Sierra Leone. If you would like to support their appeal go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/t4u-covid-appeal.

What’s wrong with Teenage Boys? Mothers will have their own answers to that! They are missing out with Shoe Boxes because not enough are being packed for their age group. So, if you are making up shoe boxes this year, or contributing items for boxes, please remember boys of 12+. Suggestions for items will be given in next month’s Link. Those of you who have been valiantly sewing scrubs and clothes bags during lockdown and are now at a loose end, can still put your skills to use by sewing book bags for teenage girls in Uganda. Ugandans are producing a lot themselves, but still need more. We can supply details of what is required.

Helen Baker 814865
Catherine Dean 813579
Eileen Quinn 812109

LIVING THE LIFE

Like most people I have tried to keep active and busy during lockdown. I have done a lot of baking, gardening, reading, walking, writing, zooming and a bit of redecorating. On the downside I have also eaten too much (I could not let the results of all that baking go to waste) and watched far more daytime TV than is good for any sane person. In an attempt to replace the two latter ‘guilty pleasures’ with something more productive I turned my hand to crafting, with mixed results.



First, I put together a mini board game based on noughts and crosses for our vehicle-mad four-year-old grandson, substituting the noughts and crosses for little plastic cars and tiny cutout Thomas the Tank style engines. The cars went down well but I think the jury is still out over my attempts at recreating engines from cardboard. Next, I made a cushion in the shape of a house featuring the nursery rhyme *Mary Mary quite contrary* for our new baby granddaughter, which turned out quite well. Flushed with success I went on to knit an octopus that I was very pleased with until everyone pointed out that it looks more like a spider. So, back to what I do best: eating cakes in front of rubbish TV.

Loki



A HISTORY OF RAINBOW PRESCHOOL

How did it all begin? In the early 70s there were four mum helpers at Sideways Nursery when the leaders Rosemary Minshull and Gerry Rumball suggested they attend a course in Saffron Walden. Those four mums were so enthused, they decided, with the blessing of Rosemary and Gerry, to look into the possibility of starting a Playgroup. Sue, Sylvia, Sheila and Ann did a survey of the new Hargrave House Estate to see if there was any interest and need for another playgroup. A search was then made for accommodation. The Youth Centre was available as long as all equipment and evidence of a playgroup was packed away after each session.

Funds were needed, so a sponsored knit was organised (even husbands had a go) and funds were found. The basic items such as tables, chairs, home frame, climbing frame and paint easels were bought from a nursery in Enfield that was closing down. With donations of toys and improvisation, such as milk crates for beds, we were ready. In 1975 Rainbow Playgroup opened a couple of mornings a week until there was enough demand to open every morning. The four mums worked unpaid until there were sufficient funds. A committee was formed from the parents of the children and Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer elected. Eventually a Mum and Co group started on Wednesday afternoons.

Eventually The Preschool Learning Alliance was formed and they suggested the name be changed to Rainbow Preschool thereby emphasising the learning aspect of the provision. The ethos was still to provide education through play. The Preschool became part of the village, joining in the Carnival each year and because of the hard work of parents, often won best float. They gave harvest gifts to residents in Norman Court and care homes and put on a Nativity Play. They used the Soft Play area at Peter Kirk School. Some children never had the opportunity go on public transport so annual trips to local parks were introduced. After 25 years in the Youth Centre the Preschool moved to the Quaker Meeting Hall until 2002 when a classroom became available in St Mary's School. At last the equipment and art work could be left out. When St Mary's School moved to Forest Hall Park, the Preschool was able to rent part of the Peter Kirk building and have an outside play area. Now with Ofsted inspections, the Preschool is more formally run with Manager Yvonne and Administration Manager Gill but the ethos is still the same - learning through play.

Over the years the Pre-school has progressed because of a great band of volunteers and leaders. Pam Moore, Ragni Whitlock, Ann Perry, Margaret Hill, Carol Battson, Terrie Stockwell, Jenny Childs, Edna Baker, Joan Lott, to name just a few. It would be lovely to hear people's memories of their time at Rainbow and what they are doing now. I know some became nurses, a solicitor, an electrician and two returned to Rainbow as Leaders.

Ann Conroy
(Auntie Ann – founder member and current volunteer)
Tel: 812457



At the start of June, we welcomed back our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children, who joined our key worker children in school. We could not believe how much they had grown since we had last seen them! The children were very excited to be back and quickly adapted to the new look and feel of the school; they have certainly enjoyed their new streamlined classrooms. For the last two weeks of the summer term, we also invited children in Years 2-5, which was a great way to end our unusual and unprecedented academic year. Since returning to school, we have thoroughly enjoyed making the most of our outside space and it has been lovely to see our splendid school grounds being used in such imaginative ways. We have seen a variety of socially distanced PE lessons including continuous cricket, a novel version of football rounders with an outer running lane to ensure a safe space between players, and daily yoga sessions.



It has been a busy time for the Year 6 children as they prepare for the start of their secondary school lives. A number have taken part in remote transition meetings, as well as having discussions in school about the transition process and what to expect in September. This year they are off to a wide variety of secondary schools: Herts and Essex, Hockerill, Newport, Birchwood, Forest Hall, Leventhorpe and Bishop's Stortford College. With the children branching off in so many different directions, it does make their final few weeks here at Manuden seem even more special.

Marnie Tait
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Although the church will be opening for Sunday worship, *The Place* will not re-open in the near future. The nature of a drop-in facility is that people just turn up, which would make it very difficult for us to adhere to the Government's social distancing measures and limits on numbers. Hopefully the restrictions will be lifted by the end of the year so that we can look forward to opening in January.



Mike Dyer
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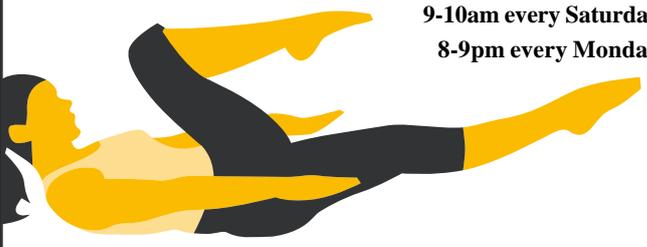
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A VIEW FROM THE BENCH

Originally from London, I moved to Stansted via Stortford eight years ago. The village was, for me, love at first sight. Prior to the dark interminable cloud that is lockdown, I often sat on this bench as it provides the best vantage point in the village.



As one of many, many people, I have mental health issues, experiencing anxiety and depression which are helped by the structure of work and my daily routines. When Covid reared its hideous head, we were all cruelly wrenched from our respective realities into a place hitherto unknown. My flat is very dark and has no garden so the prospect of hunkering down there filled me with an overwhelming dread and I needed to know that there was still a world out there. When we were allowed out for daily exercise and as soon as the sun hit my bedroom window, I felt a strong and powerful urge to head for the bench. At first, Lower Street looked like a perpetual early Sunday morning, clear of traffic and indeed most of the time, people. The vibrant pubs of our villages, The Dog and Duck, The Queens and The Kings, the Social Club, once havens of community and wells of happiness, sadly shut. A normal Sunday morning is a relaxed time, but there was an eerie and pervading sense of gloom. People appeared to come in waves. First joggers, then small family groups and couples both young and senior. There seemed to be a pattern to this, almost as if each type of group took it in turns to come into the street.

The sky though, oh the sky! Bereft of clouds, aircraft and their accompanying vapour trails left a clear unblemished pure blue unseen, I would imagine, for generations. The air, so clean and crisp and virtually free from fumes was wonderful to breathe. The joyous sound of bird song sonorous and sweet felt magnified in the absence of the usual sounds of people and traffic. Nature rejoiced: red kites swooped and glided. The pigeons seemed to coo more lovingly than before. Sparrows were everywhere, ignoring the few humans that they encountered. On the wall to my right I could see them taking water happily from the little gaps in the brickwork. Throughout, the conversation between Percy the Peacock and his harem provided a loud, discordant but strangely comforting soundtrack to the day. Our village has always been known for its wonderful blooms. However, the hue of the sky and the perpetual sunshine made the flowers and trees more bright, colourful and truly vibrant in their aspect. Pansies grew out of the pavement, and the trellised garden behind the Dog and Duck, tended lovingly by its curators, looked more stunning

than ever. The villagers' gardens became major projects and upon completion, horticultural works of art. Even the pavements shone from the glorious sunlight.

From the moment that I first perched on the bench I was overwhelmed by the friendliness of all who passed. Smiles, chats, introductions made and prior friendships forged ever deeper in the midst of our shared adversity. The bench is a catalyst of kindness and the people who live nearby have been outstandingly friendly and supportive. Griff and Dionne from The Dog and Duck brought me coffees. Griff even lent me a broly as I am on this lovely bench, come rain or shine. I have been given beers in the hot sun by the neighbours and on one occasion a gin and tonic no less! My friend Faye has been very kind loaning me a flask and her lovely dog Harry always brings a smile to my face. The curators of the trellised garden are always happy and friendly towards me and indeed have been a great mainstay during my tenure on this bench. There are so many more tales to tell and kind people to applaud and I hope to tell you all about them next time!

Krishna Mukhoty

(This is the first part of Krishna's lockdown reflections; the second part will be in the September issue. Many thanks to him for this unusual perspective on village life – and thanks to all our contributors, of course. Ed)



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

We would normally be inviting you to apply for season tickets for our 25th year, with appetising descriptions of the concerts we have in store from September to next March. Needless to say, we are not in a position to do that for the foreseeable future. Restrictions on mass gatherings need to be lifted, and we will need to ensure our audience will be confident enough to come along when that happens. The same logic applies to us as applies to the Albert Hall. With social distancing still in place, the numbers able to attend any concert would go nowhere near covering the cost of putting it on, and we would quickly go broke. The same would apply if our regular audience did not feel safe enough to come along. Fortunately, we do not have any outgoings other than those related directly to concerts, so we are able to sit tight and put all activity on hold until happier times arrive, whenever that might be. We are so sorry not to be sharing great music-making with you in the months ahead. In the meantime, we recommend daily doses of Radio 3 and Classic FM to keep your musical intake levels topped up and boost your emotional well-being! Please check our website for updates or email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk and we will add you to our mailing list, so that you will receive further information as it becomes available. We will also keep you updated through The Link. The Committee join me in sending you our very best wishes, and we hope you will stay safe.

Alan Corbishley



What's a typical day at Mountfitchet House? Sprucing up the garden

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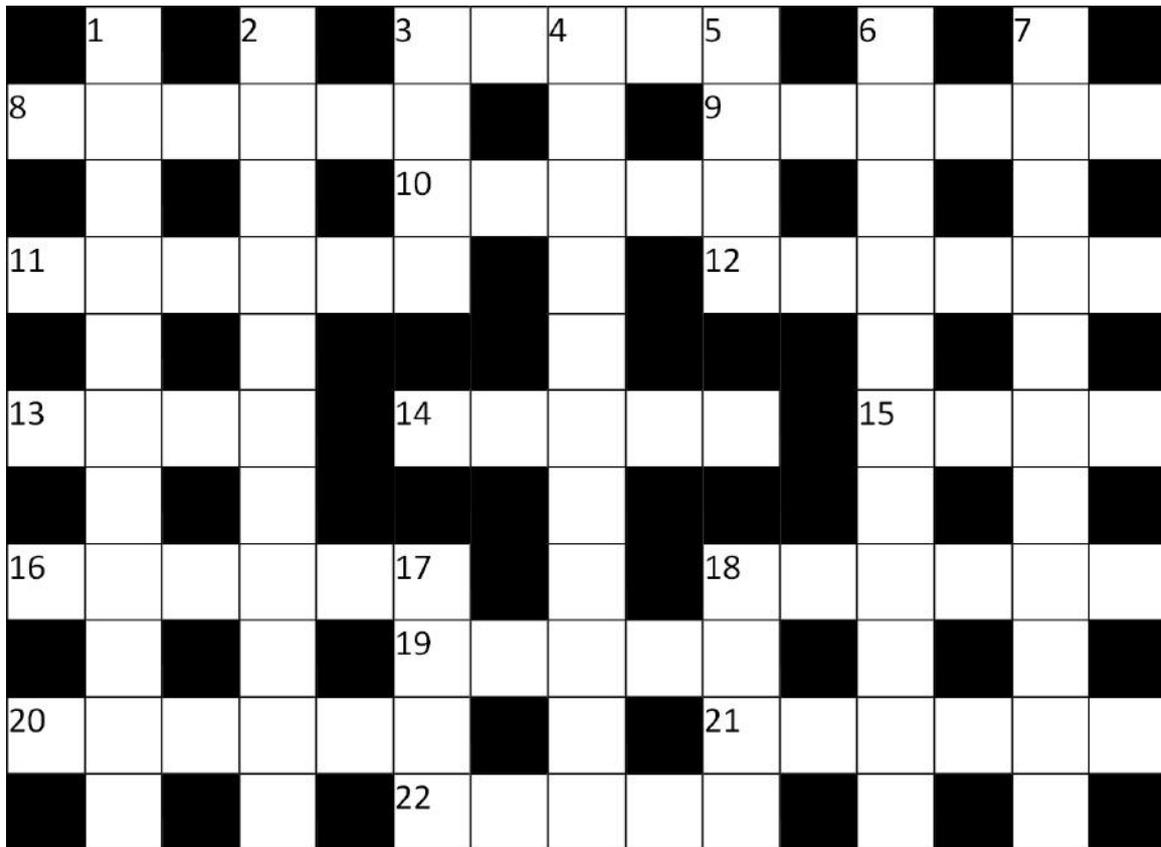
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FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 29

ACROSS

- 3 Fruity computer or music Co. (5)
- 8 A 16 (6)
- 9 A 16 (6)
- 10 Run in cricket not by the player (5)
- 11 As one in a football team perhaps (6)
- 12 Unbelievable (6)
- 13 Vanity at Scarborough (4)
- 14 Indian instrument (5)
- 15 Part of grammar, a doing word (4)
- 16 Vivaldi wrote a concerto for each (6)
- 18 Capital of the Bahamas (6)
- 19 Ms Simmonds or Goulding (5)
- 20 A 16 (6)
- 21 A 16 (6)
- 22 African country with a canal! (5)

DOWN

- 1 Off the cuff, just like that! (11)
- 2 Pretty vista is described thus (11)
- 3 Elderly (4)
- 4 A potent lily augers what could be! (11)
- 5 Jacob's brother (4)
- 6 Making it up as you go along! (11)
- 7 Sent back to country of origin (11)
- 17 Peterborough's river (4)
- 18 Pond animal went away (4)

CHARACTERS QUIZ

For each character, identify the novel or play in which it appears and the author of the work:

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Bill Sykes |
| 2 | Rhett Butler |
| 3 | Eliza Doolittle |
| 4 | Edward Rochester |
| 5 | Esmeralda |
| 6 | Nanki-Poo |
| 7 | Mary Yellen |
| 8 | John & Michael Darling |
| 9 | Sancho Panza |
| 10 | Lady Catherine de Bourgh |
| 11 | Lady Bracknell |
| 12 | Javert |
| 13 | Auguste Dupin |
| 14 | Abigail Williams |
| 15 | Cheshire Cat |
| 16 | Rodion Raskalnikov |
| 17 | Daisy Buchanan |
| 18 | Captain Ahab |
| 19 | Napoleon & Snowball |
| 20 | Professor Challenger |
| 21 | Douglas Hector |
| 22 | Ralph, Jack and Piggy |
| 23 | Sergeant Francis Troy |
| 24 | Big Daddy Pollitt |

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 24

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ALL AT SEA AND NOWHERE TO GO!

Ready for our month-long cruise to Central America and the Caribbean, we boarded our Dominican Republic flight to pick up the ship. Sadly that wasn't to be; before boarding we were sent to hotels for a four night stay. Staff were flown out from the UK to assist us and we eventually got flights to St Maarten and our ship. The ship had not been allowed to dock due to possible COVID symptoms on board, although this could not be confirmed due to lack of testing facilities on board. We were temperature checked before embarkation and had a lifeboat drill at three in the morning! We set sail towards our unscheduled first stop at Port Royal in Jamaica. We were allowed off the ship in Costa Rica, Panama and Columbia and had a wonderful time. We settled into ship life quickly and soon made new friends. Life was good and the sun shone. Some ports decided that they would not take us as more people were ill. We just looked at the ports because we could not dock anywhere. Total confirmed cases were six but others self-isolated in their cabins.



The second part of our cruise was cancelled but we could not go home due to illness on board. The daily Captain's announcements were some days full of hope ... Bahamas will help ... all steam there! Then they changed their minds and we dropped anchor 25 miles off shore at the uninhabited island of Great Isaac where we stayed for three days. A helicopter was due to arrive to bring essential medical supplies; the pools were drained and top decks cleared, but they never came! Ship life became difficult with crew serving food and sanitation problems increased. More and more passengers and crew went into isolation. Entertainment was played in empty theatres with us all watching in our cabins. We were starting to feel very frightened and wondering if we would ever see family again. Our children called the UK helpline daily to try to get information and I know they feared for our safety.

Our Government stepped in and negotiated with Cuba to allow repatriation flights to land to bring us all home, so Cuba came to our rescue. Under police escort all passengers were bussed to the airport; we only placed one foot on Cuban soil. We were on the third of four staggered flights, which were BA but no added comforts and only snacks. The crew were volunteers who gave up their time to get us home safely. Extra special thanks to the warm, kind people of Cuba who have very little but showed such compassion in our time of need. They left a gift for every single person on our bus seat. Thanks also to the crew and Captain on the

Braemar for all the care when they too were fearing the worst. Would we cruise again? Most definitely in a heart-beat, but perhaps not right now! COVID-19 has changed our lives completely but we can only hope and pray that one day all will be well again.



Lynda Dale
07716 099474



www.stanstedbusinessforum.co.uk

Our directory has been distributed throughout the village and surrounding areas. It has been a difficult time for many local businesses, but we would urge you to buy local. Here is what some members and local businesses have been doing in the lockdown:

David Hutley of Advanced Vehicle Services (AVS) is fully equipped for doing MOTs. AVS has played an important role in supporting key workers during the lockdown, repairing their cars and making sure they were safe on the road. If you have had an MOT extension for your car or need servicing or repairs then go along to AVS who will be more than pleased to help you out.

Keiran Olivier from Human Roots has been working extremely hard on the allotment during the lockdown to support local people by providing fresh vegetables and food. She has been able to deliver to multiple families in the area, which was one of the core purposes of the company. Human Roots is open for business to provide local produce and volunteers will have an opportunity to help out on the allotment, weekdays and weekends. Contact Keiran on keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk if you would like to help out with this important project.



Peter James from Murdochs Estate Agents has been busy during the lockdown. Although local house sales have been slow as they have been nationally, Peter has expanded his team for residential sales and lettings. Murdochs is family owned and give the best possible service to vendors and landlords. This means that staff will give you a free confidential valuation of your home. Please contact Peter James on 813318 or email:

Peter.James@murdochsestateagents.co.uk. Our meetings will resume at Linden House as soon as it is safe to do so.



Iris Evans




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REDUNDANCY: KEY THINGS TO KNOW

- Redundancy is a fair reason to dismiss
- Your employer can still make you redundant even if you are furloughed
- You must have two years continuous service to qualify for a statutory redundancy payment
- There are statutory minimum redundancy notice periods, depending on how long you have worked for your employer
- If you are pregnant you have extra protection

Your employer may make you redundant because the business has closed down; the area of the business where you work closes down; or there is a reduced need for employees to do a particular type of work. The legal rules surrounding redundancy are complex but generally the following should take place:

- Before redundancy you should have been consulted. If more than 20 staff are to be made redundant, there should be a collective consultation between the employer and appropriate employee representatives (usually a union)
- You should be given notice
- All holidays you are owed should be paid
- The company should have considered whether there was an alternative to redundancy. Is there another job in the firm you could do?
- The process of choosing who is going to be made redundant should be fair. If the company decided to choose you on a discriminatory basis, then your redundancy is unfair, giving you grounds to complain.

Voluntary redundancy

Sometimes employers offer incentives for taking voluntary redundancy, such as extra redundancy pay or not having to work your notice period. Think carefully how it will affect any money you are entitled to. If you take voluntary redundancy, you may be eligible for Universal Credit. *Turn to Us* www.turn2us.org.uk is a useful website or you can contact us for advice.

Planning for after redundancy

If you have worked for your employer for two years at the end of your notice period, you are entitled to reasonable time off to apply for jobs or training, paid at your normal hourly rate, for up to 40% of a week's work. Contact your local Job Centre Plus and ask for their Rapid Response Service. You can use the service during your notice period and for up to 13 weeks after you have been made redundant. The Government's www.jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk/job-search-ideas has information to help your job search and thousands of jobs from registered employers. If you are thinking about changing careers you may find the national careers service www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk helpful.

Visit www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk for details of local services which can help you get into work, including adult education opportunities and specialised support for people with mental health issues. For more information visit:

www.gov.uk for redundancy rights and help to find work
www.citizensadvice.org.uk/work/leaving-a-job
www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/redundancy-help

Our office is in Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB and is open Monday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm.

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: bureau@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

A J CAMPBELL – DEBUT NOVEL

Leave Well Alone

We have an author living in Stansted whose debut novel *Leave Well Alone* is due for publication on 1st August, and can be pre-ordered from Amazon at the end of July. AJ (Amanda) never dreamt when she was writing her novel that it would be having its final edits and being published during such surreal times as a global pandemic and lockdown. Until the birth of her twins, which radically changed her life, Amanda was an accountant for several investment banks in London. One of her twins was born with severe disabilities, and as a result, she had to give up work to care for him. It was during this incredibly challenging (and rewarding) time that AJ began to draw on her love of the written word, partly for day-to-day inspiration and partly for her own mental health. AJ also runs a very successful reading group on Facebook - AJ Campbell's Reading Corner. There will be a live online book launch on **Saturday 1st August** at 5.00pm on Facebook; social distancing and COVID guidelines makes it hard for a book launch event in person to take place.



Leave Well Alone is a gripping domestic thriller with a twist at the end; AJ is already working on its sequel *Don't Come Looking* and has ideas for her third novel as well! AJ draws inspiration from many facets of everyday life, especially how challenging events impact us all in different ways. The human mind and how different people react to each other, and interact in society, fascinates her. In her spare time AJ loves nothing more than walking our wonderful local countryside with her cocker spaniel Max. We wish her every success!

Christine Henderson

Tel: 07782 106530

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Our world has changed. We now live alongside a potentially deadly virus with no clear sense of how long it will be with us. We rely on experts and politicians to assess risk when deciding how best to balance the health of the economy with the health of the public. In the current pandemic, different countries have taken different approaches. Many have imposed strict and prolonged lockdown measures while others have been more relaxed. President Trump, who currently presides over the country with the highest number of COVID-19 deaths worldwide, has repeatedly downplayed the virus and stressed the need for the US to open for business. He encouraged an early exit from lockdown and now the virus has spiked in a number of states.

President Bolsonaro of Brazil, which has the second highest number of deaths worldwide, has also repeatedly played down the health risks of what he calls "the little flu". Even after he was diagnosed with the virus, Bolsonaro said: "Life goes on. Brazil needs to produce. You need to get the economy in gear." Here the Government has generally been open and transparent about balancing risks. Inevitably, however, there has been some political twist. Take, for example, Boris Johnson's comment: "We discovered too many care homes didn't really follow the procedures in the way that they could have, but we're learning lessons the whole time." This led to accusations of him trying to shift blame from the Government to the care sector. The Government's less than convincing response was to say that the PM had been misunderstood.

The following words from our Quaker book of insights may be helpful: "Integrity is a condition in which a person's response to a total situation can be trusted: the opposite of a condition in which he would be moved by opportunist or self-seeking impulses breaking up his unity as a whole being."



Jonathan Morrell
Stansted Quaker Meeting

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

Clerk and Lettings Jane Mitchell
Tel: 503024
Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com

Stansted Quakers are continuing to hold a Meeting for Worship each Sunday, by each being silent at the same time in our own homes. We have a strong sense of all worshipping together by doing this. Afterwards, we have our coffee or tea and a biscuit and email any ministry, thoughts or news to each other. There has been some moving ministry.



Jane Mitchell
Tel: 503024
Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com



Like everyone else, all of our face-to-face group activities have been cancelled over the last few months, although some weekday evening and Sunday meetings have continued online. By the time The Link goes to press, things may have changed again. Please email or ring us for the latest updates on what is running and when. If you have a prayer-request, please contact us. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith, and a vision to benefit our community, why not get in touch?



Ros and Howard Page
Tel: 810813
Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.co



Clair Rava
Parish Administrator
E-mail: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Theresa's of Lisieux

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

We are pleased to confirm that we are now open for Mass on the following days/times:

Saturday	5.15pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass
Sunday	08.30am Mass 09.15am Confessions 10.00am Mass
Monday	09.00am Confessions 09.30am Mass
Tuesday	7.15pm Confessions 8.00pm Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form)
Wednesday	12.00 noon Confessions 12.30pm Mass
Thursday	09.00am Confessions 09.30am Mass
Friday	09.00am Confessions 09.30am Mass

Livestream Mass

We are pleased to confirm that we are now open for mass but we are continuing with our livestream of the Masses via our YouTube channel; the link can be found on our website.

Children's Liturgy

We continue to update our page with useful links for parents with school-aged children to assist with worship in the home and guidance on children's mental health: www.sttheresastansted.org/live-mass/childrens-liturgy/

Website and Facebook Page

Our website and Facebook page are updated on a regular basis, along with our weekly Newsletter, so please remember to take a look every now and then.

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draw:

£100 No 146 Yvonne Ayres
£50 No 161 Margaret Wells
£25 No 89 Barry Francis

The draw for August will be held on **30th August** either in St. John's Church or online from my home, in the presence of the online congregation, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each month 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 each year. The club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St. John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062



Rector Rev'd Paul Wilkin
Tel: 812203
Email: stansted.rector@gmail.com

Assistant Curate Rev'd Helen Flack
Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

I am sure we are all missing the fellowship of worshipping together in our churches, but there have been some very positive things which have come out of our virtual worship through Zoom, and we are looking at ways to keep some of those positive things when we eventually return to normal. We are very pleased that St John's is open for private prayer on Wednesdays 9.00am-1.00pm and Saturdays 1.00pm onwards. Also on Saturdays is a socially distanced Holy Communion service at 4.00pm. All are welcome but those who are over 70 or who are vulnerable for other reasons are advised not to attend at present. This is the first small step towards re-opening our church for worship.

Our Assistant Curate, Helen Flack, is live-streaming our Tots Service for pre-school children on Tuesdays at 10.00am, which is proving very successful. If you can't watch at the time, you can still access it through Facebook later: www.facebook.com/groups/980023308767557. Small children love it, so spread the word if you can.

Zoom links

We are continuing with our online services as follows:
Sunday Holy Communion at 9.30am
www.us04web.zoom.us/j/109066258
Daily Prayer Monday - Saturday at 9.00am
www.us04web.zoom.us/j/459441774

Unfortunately, The Coffee Pot is closed until further notice. Let's hope it will not be too long before we can all be worshipping together in person.

Kathy West
Pastoral Assistant
Tel: 816293



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Minister Rev'd Roy Fowler
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Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

We are delighted to return to live worship in the church, albeit in a different format from what we have been used to. In order to comply with social distancing regulations, we will be sitting two metres apart except for couples or household groups. The photograph below shows the new layout for Sunday worship. The majority of our congregation are ready to return to church and fortunately we have the space to accommodate them. We have limited space for visitors so please contact us if you are thinking of joining us one Sunday.



Following completion of the required COVID-19 risk assessment, we have put measures in place to minimise the transmission of the virus, including using hand sanitiser, no socialising with others inside the building either before or after the service, and sadly for us, no congregational singing, although we will be having hymns with a soloist to listen to during the service. During the lockdown, we attended worship via Zoom with the other churches in our pastorate, and these services will continue for the foreseeable future for those who are not yet ready to return to church.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

After months of locked doors, we are pleased to inform you that St Mary's Church is now open for visitors, 8.00am-5.00pm daily. We look forward to your visit but sadly there is no visitor book for you to sign. I also have to report that ornaments and plants are being taken from graves. This causes a great deal of distress to loved ones! Please be vigilant if visiting the churchyard or cemetery and report any suspicious behaviour. Thank you.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474





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- Access to emergency fuel payments

For more information speak to Kaleigh, our specialist energy adviser, on 01799 618858 or email warmhomes@uttlesfordcab.cabnet.org.uk.

Jo Hancock
Office Administrator



FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

The school has received the *Teach Well School Gold Award: Corona Virus Pandemic* for taking care of the physical and mental health of staff during the virus outbreak, which was presented by the Teach Well Alliance. The school presented a range of evidence to show the priority it has given to taking care of staff. The school has:

- provided online yoga and meditation sessions
- ensured staff have received regular welfare calls from the head of school and line managers
- made counselling services available
- provided fresh refreshments and lunch for staff on site
- provided laptops and phones to enable staff to work from home
- sent thank you cards from the head of school
- promoted an open-door policy to those needing support
- celebrated staff on social media every Wednesday
- issued safety guidance to staff working on site

Kaleigh Trainor, assistant head, nominated the school for the award and said: "I realised how much we do for staff and the amount of care we show towards them. I do feel colleagues have felt incredibly supported during this time, both by the school and by our trust, BMAT. It is great for Forest Hall staff to have this recognition and to show them they are appreciated. None of this would be possible without everyone working together as a team." Head of School Hannah Jones said: "Staff wellbeing is crucial at all times, but throughout this period of uncertainty, I have ensured staff are well supported and I am thrilled we have been acknowledged for this support."

Kelly Clark



www.bentfield.essex.sch.uk

I do not think that it will come as a great surprise to say that this has been the strangest few months we have ever had in school. The challenges that have been faced are unlike any that have come before and, as we near the end of the summer term, I look back with tremendous pride at how fantastically everyone in the school community supported each other. When school was closed for lockdown in March, we remained open for our vulnerable pupils and those of parents who are key workers. This was a fairly small group at first as everyone came to terms with what was happening and what provision would be needed. Since then this group has grown significantly and is made up of approximately 40 pupils a day in their respective group 'bubbles'. In addition to this, from 1st June we welcomed back pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6; from 8th June our nursery pupils came back and on 29th June our Year 5 pupils returned.



Unfortunately, we have been unable to welcome back Years 2, 3 and 4 due to space and staffing. However, work has been set throughout the term for all children by their teachers through the class email addresses and through an interactive learning platform. We also facilitated some live interactive sessions with class teachers at the end of the term for pupils in these year groups. Understandably it has not been easy for either pupils or parents and we look forward to a full return in September. We approach the new academic year with a sense of unknown as to what the future will hold, but also safe in the knowledge that we can cope in even the most challenging of times.

David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO DURING LOCKDOWN?

During the lockdown period we have continued to offer a full service albeit the office has not been manned and staff have worked from home in line with government advice. Our handyman and environmental rangers have continued to work their full schedule – and more – and we are very grateful to them for keeping the village so clean and tidy at this difficult time.

We have, however, held our first Zoom Full Council meeting as there were a few controversial planning applications to be considered and we welcomed 6 members of the public. Future virtual meetings will be scheduled as required and publicised on our website.

The Chairman has been attending fortnightly information-sharing Forums with other Chairmen around the County and the Clerk has attended similar meetings for officers within the Uttlesford District. The Clerk and her assistant have also attended several e-training courses on Risk Assessments, GDPR, On-Screen Display Equipment, Playgrounds and Health and Safety.

KEY ISSUES

The on-going issues of the proposed new crossing in Lower Street, the damaged posts on the corner with Chapel Hill and HGVs using Grove Hill have continued to prompt complaints from parishioners. These matters continue to be addressed with the responsible authority - in all these cases Essex Highways - and we shall continue to raise them until appropriate responses are received.

A new issue which arose through the growing season was the Giant Hogweed on a number of footpaths.



Essex Public Rights of Way did arrange for some spraying and clearing but the situation continues to be monitored. We would remind everyone that this weed, which resembles large cow-parsley is very dangerous as its sap is toxic and can cause severe skin damage.

COVID SECURE

We have been working with officers at Uttlesford District Council to review the re-opening of non-essential retail and services within the village and, with an increasing footfall as lockdown restrictions are eased, how people move about the village. Some of the assessed risks, ie making the twitchels one-way, met with some consternation and comment that this had been done too late. However, it was a decision timed to coincide with Stage 2 of the Uttlesford Recovery Plan when hospitality, hair-dressing and similar services could welcome their customers back and the village would see increased footfall.

The Youth Service, with the support of our PCSO, is operating an outreach service as we look to re-open the Youth Centre as soon as this is legally permitted.

As we write this update, our staff are busy preparing for the reopening of our playgrounds, with social distancing measures in place and guidelines for safe use by everyone. Our weekly safety checks have continued throughout lockdown and the annual RoSPA inspection was carried out in May.

COUNCIL OFFICE RECEPTION AND THE LIBRARY

By the time you read this, the Library service should have reopened but in a very different form, and operating in line with ECC Covid-19 guidance eg a one-way system, use of the self-service machine and, ideally, ordering of books in advance for collection. They hope to be operating their usual opening hours - see page 22.

In terms of opening up our own reception facility, we have decided to take our lead from Uttlesford District Council. When their Customer Service desk in Saffron Walden re-opens, we shall do the same. Until then, our phone and email systems are fully staffed. Our future opening hours will be reviewed once we are back to a more normal service.

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Strategy Group has continued to meet and has agreed that it will go out to public consultation on the draft Plan in the Autumn. How this is undertaken will be kept under review and will be in line with the guidance in place at the time; it is likely that it will largely be online with perhaps a small-scale physical exhibition if that is permitted. The decision to consult this year has been taken as we want to get the views of the community in relation to future developments in Stansted as there is no Uttlesford Local Plan in place. The designated allocation of housing for our village may well be changed – most likely upwards - in line with any future Plan but we have no idea how long it will take UDC to formulate its new Plan.

ELMS FARM ALLOTMENTS

The Elms Farm allotment site was leased to the Parish Council as part of the planning agreement for the new Elms Farm housing estate. There were 31 full plots (25 m x 12.5m) and 3 half plots on the original plan but most of the full plots were divided in half to allow more people to have the chance of renting a plot and we now have over 50 tenants and more than 20 people on the waiting list.

The site became active early in 2019 and in the 18 months since then the site has been transformed due to the effort of our tenants who have worked incredibly hard to create productive allotment plots from what was really no more than a grassed field when we took it over.



Our tenants really appreciate the rural aspect of the site which has fantastic views of the castle and sweeping countryside and when the sheep or horses are in the neighbouring field it is a really idealistic setting, particularly if you are able to get there for a spectacular sunrise early on a summer's morning or sunset in the evening.

We charge our tenants an annual fee of 40p per square metre for their plots and in addition they pay a one-off registration fee of £20 - that's just under £1.00 a week for a half plot. The Council took a decision early on that the allotments should be self-financing and not be a drain on the public purse. At the same time they agreed that they did not want to make a profit from the allotments so all income from rents is ring-fenced and spent on the maintenance and administration of the allotments.

The covid-19 pandemic had a mixed impact on the allotments. Early in the lockdown anybody who was not shielding was allowed one hour of exercise outside the home per day. Being active on an allotment plot was designated as exercise by the Government so we were able to keep the site open and many tenants were able to spend time on their plots, growing plenty of fresh fruit and veg - which, at times, have been challenging to source in supermarkets. However those tenants who are frontline workers and tenants who were obliged to shield and confined to their homes couldn't spend time on their plots so there were a few plots that weren't looking their best.

Across the UK there was a huge increase in the number of people interested in growing their own food as a result of coronavirus, with garden centres and online shops selling out of seeds in the first weeks of lockdown and the shortages in the shops highlighted to people the fragility inherent within our globalised food system. In a time of crisis, interest in self-sufficiency increases which contributed to a surge in demand for allotments and we certainly experienced this locally. Our waiting list has doubled.

NEWS FROM ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Ray Gooding writes:

As we moved into July we started to see the gradual relaxation of the lockdown and other restrictions that have so much affected our lives during the past months, and it is possibly time to reflect on the dreadful toll Covid-19 has had on our population.

At 5th July the overall number of deaths in United Kingdom Hospitals stands at more than 44,000 with 28,888 of those occurring in hospitals across the country. Within Essex hospitals (including Southend and Thurrock) the total stands at 1307, with a similar additional percentage in Care Homes and elsewhere. We must surely all mourn the loss of all these people and express our condolences to their families.

However, these dreadful statistics are just a part of the problem, and it is evident that the economic impact of closing down our economy will also have a dramatic effect; it is clear that people need to get back to work as soon as it is safe and possible for them to do so. A major factor in this is the reopening of schools, because school is the safest and best place for our children and young people to be, both for the benefit of their education and wellbeing and to enable their parents the freedom to get back to work. The gradual reopening of primary schools has been successful so far and almost all primary schools in the County are open and more than 85% of children in the relative year groups have returned. In September all schools and all year groups will be required to return subject to a number of constraints, and it is hoped that all children will resume their studies.

The matter of social distancing will continue to be an issue that schools will need to manage and this is likely to be most problematic in the upper year groups where children have made their subject choices and where their days would normally be taken up with moving from one group to another to fulfil their curriculum. This will be extremely challenging for teachers and school leaders to manage, but I am confident that, given the outstanding work that schools have done to adapt to the requirements of the lockdown, they will continue to do the very best for our young people.

Moving on to more local issues, Grove Hill continues to be a problem and at this time the difficulties with heavy and large vehicles using the route appear to be increasing. That is well known. However, there are no easy answers and many of the potential resolutions have unintended consequences either within the village or more broadly on the highway network. It is clear that the current Traffic Regulation Order dated 1987, that provides a weight limit to vehicles going up the hill out of Stansted is not fit for purpose and is frankly not enforceable, in part because it contains caveats that provide a “get out of Jail” card to drivers who infringe the order.

Similarly, it contains no restriction on vehicles of any weight or size coming into the village from Elsenham or beyond, to the significant annoyance of residents of Grove Hill. I am very aware of the frustration that this all causes but we do need to establish a solution, however draconian, that deals with the strategic disease and not just treat the symptoms. I have been accused of being “silent” on this matter but I continue to work with the Highway Engineers to find a strategic solution and I am seeking the funding to ensure that when the solution is agreed, it can be instigated.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Geoffrey Sell writes:

On behalf of Melvin Caton, Alan Dean, Ayub Khan and myself I would like to give a massive thank you to all those who have helped us to combat the worst public health crisis since 1919. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound effect on all of us. We would like to acknowledge the work of the local community who have pulled together to help one another. Stansted Surgery did a magnificent job coordinating the volunteers who delivered food and prescriptions.

Public Health England states that here in Uttlesford there were 274 confirmed cases of the virus. Of these, unfortunately 60 people died. I have suggested to the Council that once lockdown is lifted that we remember those affected by a flag raising ceremony. It would also be an opportunity to acknowledge the work of the NHS which this year celebrates its 72 year anniversary. During lockdown the Council continued to provide essential services. Many of our staff were working from home. For frontline staff such as refuse collectors this was not an option. We set up a community response hub which offered support and advice. On behalf of central government we paid out £18 million in government support grants to around 1500 local businesses, and received 248 applications including charities, bus and coach operators, bed and breakfasts, market traders and village halls, for a discretionary grants scheme.

The pandemic has had a major impact on the finances of every local authority in the country, as revenue from car parks, properties and leisure centres has vanished while extra spending had to be found to help with pandemic management. The money from these charges make up a significant part of the Council's total income and pays for services like emptying bins, recycling collection, housing the homeless and community safety. Uttlesford is facing a shortfall for 2020/21 of £4.84 million. We hope that the government will recognize that councils need extra financial assistance if they are to continue to provide essential services.

Through its investment strategy, the Council has taken advantage of low interest rates by actively seeking out investments. Gone are the days when Uttlesford was debt free. Our borrowing at 31 March 2020 was £116 million. Much of this is from the government's Public Works Loan Board. We are the joint owners of the Chesterford Research Park. Another local acquisition has just been made. The income from these investments will help to combat the shortfall. However, these are long term loans running in some cases for 50 years.

Local Plan

The Council has withdrawn the local plan. This has serious consequences for Stansted as well as the whole of Uttlesford. Stansted councillors put forward an amendment which would have seen greater public engagement but with a focus on retaining and adapting the existing plan. A new local plan will inevitably take some time to prepare. In the meantime, we are in danger of being subject to speculative development. This is already happening. Bloor Homes consulted during lockdown (against officer advice) for a proposed development to the west of Pennington Lane. They are proposing a development of up to 168 homes. There is no planning application yet, but I am sure it will be fiercely resisted by many.

Mental Health

For some, lockdown and isolation have exacerbated mental health issues. There have tragically been several recent suicides in the area. Consequently, I was pleased to see that a group of residents is planning to set up a Stansted Mental Health Awareness Project. I have been happy to give some advice. The project is in its infancy but stimulating public awareness is one of the objectives. If you would like to help or know more please email Rachel Dawes on dawesrachel39@yahoo.co.uk

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All scheduled physical meetings are cancelled. Virtual meetings will be held as and when required and publicised on our website and noticeboard.

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford
Administration Assistant - Emma Philbrick
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net
Phone/fax: 01279 813214 Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm, Wed 9.00am-1.00pm
Website: www.stansted.net

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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Ray GOODING	813103 cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Tel 0207 219 1943 (House of Commons) Email kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

POLICE

PCSO Nikki Morris email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk
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THE
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www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Last August we celebrated our Japanese gardening heritage. This year we will be celebrating being open to the public! Our Open Day is on **Sunday 16th August**, with gates open from 11.00am and our usual catering. We are now also opening on Thursdays, for walkers and cyclists only, as car parking is not available; there is no catering on Thursdays but picnics are welcome. Details for all open days are on our website and Facebook page and are being regularly updated as we get more experience of operating with social distancing and following the latest rules.



In July the Gardens have looked gorgeous, with the rain finally washing the dust from the leaves and allowing the plants to grow. The Italian garden has its summer hues: the central beds are a beautiful blend of yellows, from the achillea, day lilies and Oenothera; oranges from the kniphofia and helenium and purples from the nepeta and salvia. The dahlia bed and flower border in the walled kitchen garden are growing apace and provide a riot of colour. The greens of the ferns in the stumpery and the trees in the glade are refreshed. And the lavender borders are a mass of colour from the flowers and the butterflies and bees feasting on their nectar. The fruit and veg in the walled kitchen garden have loved the mix of sunshine and rain and so we have a steady flow of produce for sale and jams and jellies for our tombolas. We hope you will find time to come and visit us through the summer.

Jill Goldsmith
07947 183439

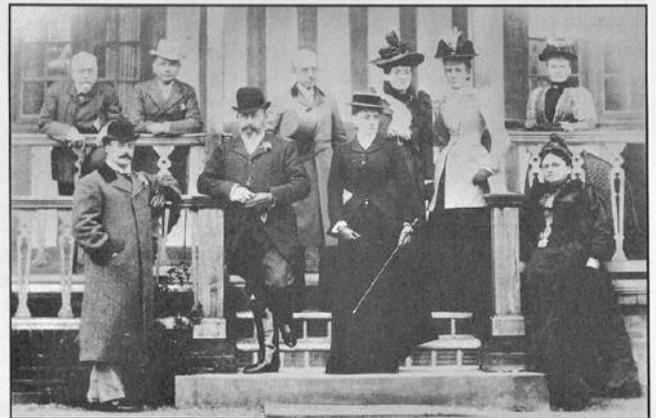
**EASTON LODGE AND
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Our Common Heritage

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Visitors and volunteers love the gardens of Easton Lodge for their space and wildlife. They also provide some interesting crossovers with Stansted Mountfitchet. Easton Lodge dates from Tudor times, when the estate was gifted to Henry Maynard in reward for his services as private secretary to William Cecil. Sir Henry built his Easton Lodge mansion in 1597, and the kitchen garden walls still include some Tudor bricks. The Maynards were very much part of the local establishment, with wealth building up over the centuries. Fortunately for them, when the third Viscount Maynard died in 1865 the law allowed him to leave the estate to his

grand-daughter. Frances Evelyn Maynard, also known as Daisy, inherited the estate when she was three years old.

Daisy was beautiful and wealthy; she lived as an aristocratic socialite, entertaining at Easton Lodge with weekend hunting, shooting, gambling and drinking parties. Daisy was considered to be a suitable match for Queen Victoria's youngest son, Leopold, but chose to marry the heir to the Warwick estate, making her the Countess of Warwick in 1884. After Daisy had produced an heir and a spare for the Warwick family, she started having affairs, including a long relationship with Edward, Prince of Wales, from 1890. Daisy was a philanthropic landowner and engaged with other locals concerned with poverty and other social issues, including James Blyth of Blythwood House, Stansted. For example, the Countess established a needlework school at Easton Lodge in 1890 to provide girls with training and an income. The Countess ensured the lingerie produced could be sold, through a shop in Bond Street. She also had more cottages built for people on her estate. James Blyth built his personal wealth working with his uncle, Henry Parry Gilbey, in the wine trade. He established a model electric dairy at Blythwood, using Jersey cows to produce the highest quality milk. The Prince of Wales is shown below at the opening of the Blythwood Dairy in 1892 with some of the Blyth and Gilbey families, and the Countess at his side (and her husband one step lower!).



65. The opening of Blythwood Dairy. Back row: Henry Parry Gilbey, Sir James Blyth, Sir Walter Gilbey, Lady Gordon Lennox, Mrs Gardner (daughter of Sir James Blyth), Lady Dorothy Nevill. Front row: Earl of Warwick, Prince of Wales, Countess of Warwick, Lady Blyth.

Photo from *Gilbeys Wine and Horses* by Jane Kidd

The Countess went on to establish a Women's Agricultural College associated with Reading University and James Blyth wrote a piece for her first edition of the college's *Woman's Agricultural Times* in 1898. The other point of common history is the Airfields of World War II. Easton Lodge was requisitioned by the UK government; the US Army Air Force built an airfield and flew bombers from there, while also flying them from the airfield they built at Stansted. After the war the gardens were left untended and nature started to take over. The Trust leases the gardens to continue the restoration and make them open to the public. The gardens are beautiful throughout the year and please do visit when they re-open after this shutdown. If you want to see what you will find there, you can find lovely pictures and updates on our website. You can sign up to the monthly newsletter or see garden news on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Jill Goldsmith

MEET THE LINK TEAM

Yvonne Ayres

Born and bred just over the border in Bishop's Stortford, I left Hadham Hall School after taking my GCE 'O' Levels (now GCSEs) and had no idea what I wanted to do. My first job was at Robert Sayle (John Lewis) in Cambridge and the next was at Stansted Airport as a clerical officer with the Board of Trade. Looking for excitement I went off to join, not the circus but Pontin's Holiday Camp in Selsey, Sussex and spent most of my 20s in the West Country and on the south coast. I was working mainly in the retail and hotel industries - and on my suntan! Coming to Stansted almost 40 years ago I became a full-time wife and mother working part-time from home as a seamstress specialising in alterations. I also trained as a teacher and instructed adults in the art of dress-making and City & Guilds Fashion and Design. Later I worked as a cashier in the restaurant at Pearsons Department Store in Stortford (now Bill's and Côte Brasserie) and my last part time job before retirement was delivering leaflets for a local estate agent - an ideal job for a nosey person!



I have been volunteering for *Helpline* since it began in 1984 and along with Tai Chi, line dancing and walking, I love reading, writing and people watching, so it was inevitable that I would get involved with our great, award winning parish magazine. I started as an occasional contributor, then in 2009 joined The Link Committee, became a director and part of the production team. I have risen to the dizzy heights of Editor, a role I carried out for around five challenging but very rewarding years. I'm still an active member of *The Link* team, mainly helping to source the front cover images, and now have more time to do what I enjoy the most, writing; but still don't know what I want to do when I grow up.

GREEN WASTE SKIPS

We are pleased that the skips are now back in Stansted and following the original timetable. They will be open in Lower Street Car park 12.30pm-4.30pm on Sundays 26th July, 9th and 23rd August, 6th and 20th September. It is always the Sunday following the collection of the recycling bins: a nice easy way to remember.

STANSTED EVENING WI



While it is encouraging to see things beginning to gradually re-open after the last few months, I cannot see our WI formal meetings starting up again as long as social distancing remains a necessity. However, WI members have been keeping busy; as well as pursuing our many interests and hobbies we have been enjoying walks around Stansted, and learning new computer skills to keep in touch with family and friends. Instead of our July meeting we held a socially distanced picnic on the Recreation Ground, where small groups of us enjoyed each other's company, catching up with news and stories of lockdown pursuits and of course to enjoy a cup of tea. So many meetings have had to be cancelled including our Annual Meeting, which should have been in May; our next formal meeting, whenever that will be, will become our Annual Meeting.

It seems a long time since we went on two very enjoyable trips earlier in the year. Dolly Parton's *9 to 5 The Musical* at the Savoy Theatre was great toe-tapping fun and the *Crowns and Gowns* exhibition at Ely Cathedral was a rare chance to see the fabulous collection of costumes, props and memorabilia from some of the Hollywood movies and television series filmed at Ely Cathedral and around East Anglia. We are longing to return to going on trips and for our meetings to resume; we do so hope that we will be able to celebrate our 60th anniversary in October in some way. Please do get in touch if you know of any friends or relatives who have belonged to the WI in Stansted during the past 60 years who might have stories to tell.

Anne Watson
Tel: 898693

CHARACTER RECOGNITION ANSWERS

1. Oliver Twist - Charles Dickens
2. Gone with the Wind - Margaret Mitchell
3. Pygmalion - George Bernard Shaw
4. Jane Eyre - Charlotte Brontë
5. The Hunchback of Notre Dame - Victor Hugo
6. The Mikado - Gilbert & Sullivan
7. Jamaica Inn - Daphne Du Maurier
8. Peter Pan - J M Barrie
9. Don Quixote - Miguel De Cervantes
10. Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen
11. The Importance of Being Earnest - Oscar Wilde
12. Les Miserables - Victor Hugo
13. Murders in the Rue Morgue - Edgar Allen Poe
14. The Crucible - Arthur Miller
15. Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll
16. Crime and Punishment - Fyodor Dostoevsky
17. The Great Gatsby - F Scott Fitzgerald
18. Moby Dick - Herman Melville
19. Animal Farm - George Orwell
20. The Lost World - Arthur Conan Doyle
21. The History Boys - Alan Bennett
22. Lord of the Flies - William Golding
23. Far from the Madding Crowd - Thomas Hardy
24. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof - Tennessee Williams



THANK YOU!

I want to thank my neighbours in Cawkell Close for their offers of help and support during the lockdown period; in fact, for the whole of this last year since the death of my husband. Special thanks to Sherry, Rosie, Judy, and Ian and Paul for grass cutting. I also want to thank the U3A for their newsletter and Pat who runs the Poetry Group. On my birthday my daughter ordered me a fish and chip supper from Churchill's and to my surprise Churchill's included a card and a box of chocolates, courtesy of the manager - what a lovely gesture! My family have been wonderful; Jon, Vicky and my grandchildren Alex and Eloise have kept in touch by video. The teachers at Bentfield Primary have also worked hard to give the children a substantial amount of homework to keep them occupied. The people of Stansted have responded to the emergency with kindness, generosity and good humour and I thank them whole heartedly.

Margaret Doughty



ST CLARE HOSPICE
www.stclarehospice.org.uk

New Bereavement Support Helpline

We have recently launched a new service that aims to offer immediate telephone support to local, bereaved people. The helpline operates from 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday, and is run by a team of staff and volunteers trained to deliver immediate emotional help and practical guidance for those who would like extra support after the loss of someone close. Anyone who has ever experienced such a loss is welcome to call the helpline.

What can the Helpline offer you?

- A listening ear, and emotional support from trained St Clare staff and volunteers
- Information and guidance on what to do after a death, like registering a death, closing accounts, planning a funeral, and other practical considerations
- Signposting to our other services, as well as resources in your local community which could benefit you.

If you would like to speak to someone about the loss of someone close, no matter how long ago you were bereaved, the number to call is (01279) **967670**. The helpline is free to call, although charges may apply in line with your standard network rate. The helpline is funded by £46k from the National Lottery Community Fund and is part of a range of new services we have launched in response to a need for bereavement support during the pandemic. In May, we developed our popular Bereavement Café, launching online communities within localised Facebook groups to offer bereaved people an opportunity to continue meeting and connecting with others who understand. To find and join your local Bereavement Café online community, visit our Facebook page and look under the Groups tab.

Emma Sugarman
Senior Communications Officer
Tel: 773700
Email: emma.sugarman@stclarehospice.org.uk

STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Community Halls were allowed to open on 4th July, but rules and regulations around distancing and sanitising premises make this difficult. Also, over 70s are still being advised not to meet in groups, especially indoors. For these reasons the Day Centre remains closed for both lunches and hirers. We are being guided by Uttlesford District Council, who will tell us when it is considered safe to reopen. This is unlikely to be before September. In the meantime, we wish all our customers and hirers all the best and look forward to seeing you again, hopefully in the autumn.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

SCALE MODEL BOAT MAKING

I started model making with simple Airfix models packed in a see-through bag when I was still at Primary school. Nearly 60 years later I still enjoy the hobby although the complexity and size has dramatically increased. Today's models can be basic or come complete with Photo Etch to enable you to upgrade as much as you wish. I now build battleships and other warships circa WWII, which requires a considerable amount of research as the level of build and colour schemes have to be correct for a certain date of the model. This is not compulsory, but for me it is all part of the hobby. The amount spent on upgrades and parts for the model is down to personal taste and the modeller's ability to see and assemble some parts which can be incredibly small. The time taken on each of my models varies, but a 5-foot model of a WWII battleship can take up to 1200 hours, or 1½ years, so it is important to also make a box for the model to prevent dust and to act as a means for safe transportation.



I have a self-contained room (The Bunker) where all my models are housed, plus all the tools to do the job, complete with kettle. I find that time modelling can drift into hours; the results at completion are extremely rewarding, but at the same time it is frustrating when you drop a bit as well. Going to a Model exhibition and receiving compliments from a stranger is a fantastic feeling, well worth all the time and effort. The photo is 1/200 scale KM Bismarck circa 1941. Do call me if you would like to find out more.

Peter Beattie
Tel: 07850 329192

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MYANMAR

For some it is known by its former name Burma. It conjures up memories of the *Bridge on the River Kwai* which was the subject of a memorable World War II film. The country is known for its poor human rights record and the persecution of the Muslim Rohingya people. I visited Myanmar twice last year on business. I stayed at the Hotel Sule Shangri-La in downtown Yangon. It is about a 45-minute drive from the airport. It has very good facilities and the staff are helpful and friendly. Myanmar is very much a developing country. I can still picture all the street food stalls. The abiding impression is a country where Buddhism is central to people's lives. It is a common sight to see saffron coloured monks walking along the road. I managed to fit in a few excursions. One of the highlights was a visit to the Shwethalyaung Temple in Bago. It is famous for its reclining Buddha statue. It has a length of 55 metres and a height of 16 metres. It is believed to have been built in 994.



The British 14th Army during World War II was often referred to as the 'Forgotten Army'. This was because its operations in the Burma Campaign were overlooked by the contemporary press. I visited the Allied War Memorial Cemetery in Taukkyan which commemorates over 30,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in Burma during the war. It has beautiful landscaped grounds and is a place of quiet reflection.



Another interesting visit was to U Thant House. This was the residence of U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations. He played a crucial role in the Cuban Missile Crisis of the early 1960s. Myanmar is a relatively undiscovered tourist location. Under 37,000 people from the UK visited it in 2018. Tourism is undeveloped but with huge potential.

Geoffrey Sell
Tel: 815925



RHODES ARTS COMPLEX

www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk

On 23rd March, we closed our doors in response to the Government lockdown. In the previous week we had been preparing to host one of our regular local theatre groups. They ended up having to play a closed performance just prior to lockdown being announced. There was never going to be a good date to close on, but having to do so without a local show being performed was very upsetting for us all. Our first few weeks in lockdown were uncertain but we still had our hands full, contacting our customers and rearranging shows for what we hoped would be a summer reopening (little did we know then). With our staff diligently working from home, the building stood quiet and empty and even now, when we are back, it is still far too quiet and empty but that does not mean we are not busy.

In the hope of being able to gradually re-open, we have been busy reviewing our risk assessments and putting some new measures in place so that we can safely welcome our customers and hirers back, whilst maintaining the same creative and inclusive environment that we always strive for. It has not been easy but, as a team, we are determined to bring you the best experience and we will not fail. We have an exciting programme planned from late 2020 and into 2021 and we hope that we can bring you everything advertised and maybe even throw in a few extras once we are given the go ahead to open our doors to you once more. Until then you can keep up to date with our activities and plans on our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Liz Murphy
Receptionist / Box Office Assistant
Tel: 710200

STANSTED FUN RUN

www.stansted10k.org.uk



We are sad to say that this year's Stansted Fun Run is cancelled. We are sorry for those of you that have registered with us and for the charities that will not receive our support this year. We are in the process of exploring the opportunity of holding a virtual event later in the year, so please watch this space. Those of you who have already paid a joining fee will be given the opportunity to request a refund or donate your fee – if you do this, we will distribute it to the charities equally as they need our support more than ever. Please continue to monitor our website and Facebook page for further information. Thank you.

Clair Rava
Email: stansted10k@gmail.com

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Nature Notes



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Cinquefoil *Potentilla reptans*

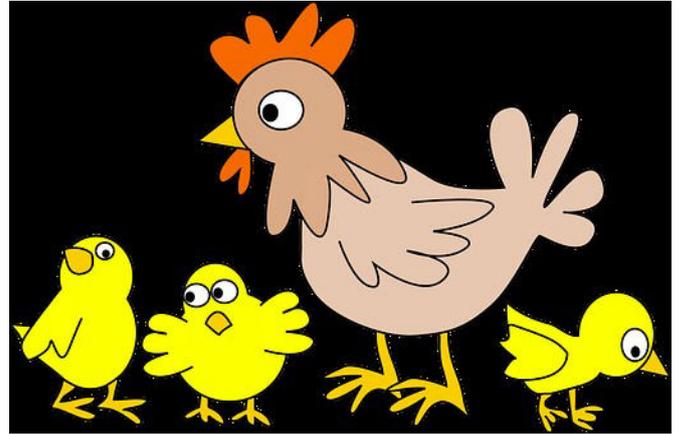
Cinquefoil is also known as Five Finger Grass. The yellow flower resembles the buttercup. This is not a plant that I would wish to have in my garden, but unfortunately it has taken up residence, posing as a rockery plant! It has a habit of taking over flower beds, and is extremely difficult to eliminate. Mae Allan in her book *Weeds* describes it as a charming member of the rose family, and cousin of the strawberry. Cinquefoil sends out runners which put down roots at the leaf joints, as strawberries do. In a season it can cover 12 square yards.



This plant has been used medicinally since the time of the Greek physicians Hippocrates, 460 - 377 BC, and after him Dioscorides, 40 - 90 AD. Tannins give Cinquefoil its astringency, which makes it a useful plant for washing wounds, and it can staunch bleeding. According to Culpeper, this action is useful within the mouth, and can relieve the pain of toothache. It is also used as a gargle for sore mouths and quinsy. Taken with honey, Cinquefoil can ease hoarseness and act as a cough medicine. There is an impressive list of ailments that it can cure: jaundice, ulcers, cancers, fistulas, running sores, ruptures, and stopping internal bleeding and bruising. Culpeper also claims that Cinquefoil can reduce a fever, treat inflammation, cure falling sickness, and treat gout and sciatica. Almost a 'cure all'! David Conway in his book 'Magic of Herbs' states that Cinquefoil was a favourite nerve herb of the gypsies. They used it as a powerful sedative in cases of hysteria, epilepsy and schizophrenia. Today it is still used as a gargle for sore throats, and stopping diarrhoea. Now, where did I put the weed killer!?

Bee's Daughter

We are so delighted to be able to celebrate with you the fact that we are open again at last; everyone is so happy and that includes the animals! We must observe the Government guidelines and therefore numbers are restricted, and you **MUST** pre-book if you want to visit; for details please visit our website or Facebook page. We are open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10.00am-noon and 1.00pm-3.00pm and entry is £5.00.



On entering the farm, you will be given some animal food and you can then visit and feed our lovely animals and see how much they have grown. You can also visit the small animals enclosure, play on the equipment, have a picnic (you will need to bring your own), play in our new den building area and have a splash in the stream, visit our old friends the horses and explore our brand new woodland trail.



There is a lot to do, so make sure you are not late! Our lambs and Gertrude, the kid goat, have really grown. We are eagerly waiting the imminent arrival of piglets! We have a great variety of chickens, ducks, geese, guinea fowl, quails and bantams.

As you can imagine, the past few months have been really tough financially, so if you would like to help, you can do this in two ways. We have an **Amazon Wish List** with all sorts of things on it; nothing is terribly expensive, but everything is very much needed. Please go to: www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1B5UNRLQREZDL?ref=cm_sw_sm_r_wl_mw_jrTk174ecxfGq. We also have a **Crowd Funding page** on www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/alison-thomson-5. Anything you can give is massively appreciated. The farm is in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

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3. Apple 8. Spring 9. Summer 10. Extra 11. United 12. Unreal 13. Fair 14. Sitar 15. Verb 16. Season 18. Nassau 19. Ellie 20. Autumn 21. Winter 22. Egypt

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Respecting lockdown, self-isolation, and other limitations, we have cancelled all walks as our walk leaders have not been able to check them out. We are hoping to bring you a revised programme for September so please continue to check our website and Facebook page. The BSDFA has not, however, ceased protecting our local Public Rights of Way (PROWs) - footpaths, bridleways, certain tracks etc. We are involved in the Herts CC initiative to improve walking and cycling routes in Stortford. This includes the longer term aim of establishing a Super Highway for cycling and walking from the Lee Valley Cycle Corridor into Stansted Airport. See www.widenmypath.com/suggest/#14/51.8627/0.1490 for more details. There does not appear to be a plan to link Stansted Mountfitchet into this Connectivity which is a shame and appears to be a missed opportunity. The BSDFA continues with its involvement to save and improve our local PROWs which are at risk of disappearing owing to the many local large developments underway or proposed, such as Bishop's Stortford North (BSN)-Green Infrastructure and the proposed Network Rail-crossing closures.



The photograph is by courtesy of Dave Webber and shows the sawn up fallen tree which closed FP001

The BSDFA also reports local dangerous occurrences where a repair/replacement/closure along a PROW is necessary - although any individual may report these issues. This involves contacting the local land owner, or the local County Council. Recently the BSDFA has been involved with pursuing local issues such as:

- remedying the badly flooded tow-path between Pig Lane and Spellbrook (repaired by the Canal and River Trust)
- the removal of old and damaged chestnut trees and partial clearances of the verge along Gypsy Lane
- clearance of giant hogweed from the banks of Stansted Brook FPF023
- improving the walking route from Bat Willow into Stansted



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Publicity Officer
Email: dwjwj@gmail.com

Our face to face meetings remain cancelled until further notice, but many of our 300 or so members are keeping in touch via Zoom, You Tube, WhatsApp, email and telephone. For example, the singers have been enjoying YouTube rehearsals coupled with Zoom get-togethers; art appreciation have been chatting and watching talks together; there are weekly yoga sessions and the art group have been painting together, all remotely. Members with email have been receiving regular weekly newsletters, with news, photos and stories, many of these from our creative writing group. Tony, who leads our walking and nature appreciation group, has been sending emails out to the walkers giving them ideas for walks; the photo shows some lovely bee orchids found near Wades Hall, Ugley.



In light of government regulations, information from the Charities Commission regarding AGMs and our own constitution, it was decided to postpone the AGM until such time as it is safe and legal to hold it. Our constitution states that an AGM must be held every calendar year, therefore by 31st December. Meanwhile, existing Committee members remain in place. Monthly general meetings have been cancelled, but Gill, our speaker Secretary, has been busy re-arranging the speakers that were previously booked. Once we get back to meetings there will be, thanks to her efforts, a full programme of speakers. We can't wait! We are still open to new members. Just go to our website for details of how to join, or email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com.



Sally Rich
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HATFIELD FOREST HISTORY

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

Exploring the ancient landscape of Hatfield Forest takes you straight into the past. This medieval forest is a unique survivor, the best-preserved example of its kind in the world. The term *forest* is generally interpreted today as a place with lots of trees; in medieval times the word referred to an area where deer were kept for hunting. Genetic testing has revealed the fallow deer in the Forest today are descendants of those from a thousand years ago, during the reign of King Henry I. The Forest is internationally renowned for its ancient trees and some are well over 500 years old. They provide a connection to the wildwoods covering the United Kingdom after the last Ice Age.

The land is split almost equally between wood pasture and coppices. Wood pasture was used in medieval times for grazing livestock and is now used for our Red Poll cattle and rare breed sheep. Elsewhere, the traditional practice of coppicing was employed to provide timber and winter browsing for livestock. Henry I was not the first owner to graze livestock at the Forest. There is evidence of settlements dating back as far as the Iron Age. To the north-west of the site are low mounds and ditches: visible remains of such a settlement and probably associated with early woodland clearances and grazing of livestock. Wildlife also flourishes at the forest which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature reserve. These awards were not just because of the Forest's huge array of ancient trees, but also a reflection of the breadth of its bird and insect population. It is home to more than 4000 species of wildlife and trees, and a refuge for many rare insects, fungi and wildlife.



From 1729 to 1923, the Houlblon family played an important role in the further development and preservation of the Forest. The lake is a man-made alteration to a much smaller lake, constructed by the Houlblon family and extended by 'Capability' Brown. Recently the National Trust team have been working to restore this 18th century landscape to its former glory. A deathbed legacy saved the Forest from destruction almost a century ago, ensuring that through the National Trust future generations would forever be able to enjoy this unique environment. In 1923 passionate conservationist, Sir Edward North Buxton MP was fearful for the future of Hatfield Forest. He decided to buy it for the National Trust when the site went up for auction. Due to an 'administrative error', the land was sold to Thomas Place

and a group of timber merchants who then ordered that the trees be felled. Undeterred, Sir Edward negotiated to buy the Forest from Place and concluded the first part of the sale on his deathbed on 1st January 1924. His sons Gerald and Anthony later completed the purchase and presented the Forest to the National Trust five months later. It was opened to visitors in May 1924.

After our enforced closure, we hope to welcome you again to enjoy this beautiful piece of our history. In the meantime, we urge our readers to check individual property websites before attempting to visit any National Trust sites, be it Hatfield Forest or elsewhere. The most up to date information will always be available on the relevant website.

Elizabeth Reeves and Helen Hooker
Visitor Welcome Team
Tel: 87067



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Adjusting to lockdown over the past few months has been challenging, but many of us have found solace in the garden, ticking off those 'to do' jobs. Every month has been different, going from heatwave, turning the heating back on, back to heatwave and at the present time April showers! The gardens have benefited from all the extra hard work and care; however, it is important to sit back, relax and enjoy the flowers, birds, butterflies, bees and the scents. I think many of us will be having 'staycations' this year, so our gardens will be a good sanctuary.



Open Gardens The four RHS Gardens have re-opened but you must book your visit online. Some of the Yellow Book, English Heritage and National Trust gardens as well as private gardens like Beth Chatto's have opened up too, but check on the internet before venturing out as most garden visits must be booked in advance.

Future Meetings At the moment there is no news on our meetings reconvening; the social distancing is still very important and the last thing we want, after everyone being so good during the lockdown, is for this nasty COVID-19 to get a foothold again. As soon as we hear anything, we will let you know.

Other News Unfortunately I have some sad news: one of our former members, Brian Townsend, passed away in June. Many of our older members will remember Brian and Janet; they were stalwart members of the club for many years, moving away to the Midlands a few years ago to be near their children and grandchildren. They were amongst the original members. The club's condolences have been sent to the family. Take care, keep safe and enjoy your garden.



Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144



STORT VALLEY ROTARY CLUB

www.StortValleyRotary.com

Gearing up for post-COVID

Rotary is a world-wide organisation with a membership of 1.2m. Globally it is involved with projects ranging from eradicating polio to first response international disaster relief. Within the UK, Rotary supports local causes which have been reported in previous editions of The Link. As with many service organisations, the age profile is becoming a challenge. To address this, the club is embarking on a major initiative to fire the imagination and attract local people who would like to make things happen in our very diverse society. Over the next three months, on social media, and making direct contact with householders in Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding area, we will contact 20,000 people. Some will hopefully become members, but those with demanding jobs and other pressing commitments will be invited to sign up as a friend of Stort Valley Rotary. This involves no financial or time commitment, but will allow community-minded individuals to support local good causes on an *as and when* basis.



We already have a programme of excellent speakers including our MP, a University Vice Chancellor and the National Farmers Union Brexit Spokesman. Our talks are open to all those that register via our website. For the community we hope to organise four major events each year starting with a Food, Drinks and Lantern Festival, scheduled for **Sunday 29th November** in Bishop's Stortford. We expect the need for our primary local support areas, Life Education with Coram and Protective Behaviours with Aspects, to increase greatly. We aim to tap into the tremendous community spirit that helped us all through the COVID-19 crisis to support the most vulnerable in our society.



Peter Latham
Tel: 881607

Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

What happened? The last entry for The Link said that we were looking forward to the start of our 2020 season. Before the ink had even dried the world turned upside down. The entire Bowls season was cancelled due to COVID-19's lockdown; plus many of our members are in the vulnerable sector. The Club found itself in a bad position as did much of the local business: no income and still the bills

going out. Thankfully we have come through what we hope is the worst of it now, and we are gradually starting to play limited bowls on the green. Then we received more bad news. Our Patron, Bartram Robinson, passed away. He was a much-loved man and would often visit the Club at matches and come along to our Friday social nights. He used to reminisce about life in Stansted and have us all in awe of his memory. He was a fantastic supporter of the Club in many ways.

Looking towards the future and the 2021 season, we are going to need more players, both ladies and men. Over the next few months we hope to set a programme of recruitment, subject to Government guidelines, and of course open our Clubhouse once again for the enrolments. It is an ideal way of getting out for an evening or a weekend afternoon, coupled to a lively amount of banter. And don't forget the tea and cakes. If you are thinking about joining a bowls club then please give Stansted a try; we look forward to welcoming you.

Peter Beattie
Hon Secretary

Tel: 07850 329192

E-mail: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk/club/stansted-football-club

The big question we at the Club are asking is: given the current circumstances, will football be played at Hargrave Park this coming season? We have had no definitive answer from the FA; our only guidance is that the players can undertake training sessions in a controlled manner which does not involve any form of contact. Off the field the Club is still going through the necessary routines of player registrations, League and County affiliations and entry into FA Cup and Vase competitions. We have also been fortunate to have been awarded a number of financial grants over the summer which has allowed the Club to carry out our close season work on the pitch, and some structural repairs and improvements to our ground facilities.

There is some exciting news surrounding the work being done to bring youth football back to our village. The Club has, over the past few months, been in discussions with a number of interested parties to oversee the development of youth team football, and this has initially led to a newly formed Stansted Under-13s team. We hope that they will compete in the Eastern Junior Alliance League. Trials were held at our ground at the beginning of July, with a crop of talented youngsters impressing the team managers and coaches. We can only ask all our supporters to bear with us as we wait to see what happens over the next few months. Many rumours are going around, could we be playing in September or October? If developments do occur, we will make announcements on our social media sites.



Tom Williams
Secretary

Tel: 07921 403842

The courts are now open!

Following the LTA guidelines which were published recently, several new measures have been introduced to ensure the safety of players whilst at the Club. Members can book a court for singles or doubles play using ClubSpark and can also bring non-members (paying a £3.00 visitor fee each). Currently Club mornings/evenings are suspended and there are no tournaments due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Coaching is now allowed to take place and Ollie Toms is running several sessions a week for adults and juniors. Please contact him on 07917 652014 or email: olliestennis@gmail.com for details.

Membership

To join the Club please download a membership form from our website, where you can also find further information about the Club.

Fiona Kelly
Publicity Officer

Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com



**Stansted
Cricket
Club**

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

At the time of writing (9th July) we do not know for certain exactly when and how we will return to playing recreational village cricket. We believe that our 1st XI in the Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) will start with the fixtures that had been planned for Saturday 18th July (Round 12) and continue until Round 18 is completed on Saturday 29th August. Matches will be 11 a-side, but there will be restrictions on using changing rooms, serving food, and enjoying social facilities. There will be no promotions or relegations in the season; players are just keen to play again, but it will not be cricket as we previously knew it.

The Cambridgeshire Cricket Association (CCA), where our 2nd XI play, has proposed that clubs be split into divisional mini-leagues of five teams who will play each other once over a five-week period from Saturday 1st August, and then have a round of play-offs on Saturday 5th September. Stansted Football Club has kindly agreed to us being able to play at Hargrave Park into September until they have a definite start for their 2020-2021 football season. During lockdown we have been fortunate that our groundsman, Ben Baker, has done a fantastic job of keeping the square and outfield in pristine condition. Our Committee has been holding regular meetings via Zoom. Given that our normal costs for insurance, ground and equipment maintenance still continue and we have had no income from members' subscriptions, match fees or bar sales, we have been fortunate in securing grants from the Government for sports clubs and from Sport England. The new sightscreen that the Sports Association funded was delivered in April. To see our fixtures please go to our website.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509

BENTFIELD CHARLES HUCKS – PIONEER AVIATOR

Bentfield Charles Hucks was born on 25th October 1884, and named after his birthplace. He was generally known as B C or Bennie. Originally a keen motorist, he came to aviation after being fined and banned from driving for a speeding offence in Cardiff. He was taught to fly by Claude Grahame-White in 1910, and accompanied him on a tour to the USA in that year. On his return he gained his Royal Aero Club certificate (number 91), flying a Blackburn monoplane. During the test, at Filey on 18th May 1911, the engine seized causing the propeller to shear off. Both Hucks and the aircraft suffered only superficial injuries. To achieve his certificate, Hucks made another flight on 30th May to satisfy the officials. He was engaged by the Blackburn Company to test their new monoplane, which he flew in the Circuit of Britain in July 1911. In August, he made one of the first air-ground wireless experiments in the UK at Swansea.



In 1912 he re-joined Grahame-White at the London Aerodrome, Hendon and became a regular participant in the flying displays held there. In May he piloted an exhibition flight over the Fleet gathered in Portland Bay for the Royal Review and later flew the first airmail service from Hendon to Bath in a Blériot XI monoplane, a distance of about one hundred miles. He was carrying letters from the Lord Mayor of London to his counterpart in Bath. In September 1913 Hucks became the first British pilot to 'loop the loop' at Hendon in his Blériot, having first travelled to the Louis Blériot Flying School in France to learn how to carry out the manoeuvre. On 16th January 1914, Hucks and Gustav Hamel, another Hendon pilot and friend, were the honoured guests at an 'upside-down' dinner held at the Royal Aero Club in London, organised by Grahame-White. The food was served back to front, starting with coffee and ending with soup! Hucks was presented with a Gold Medal to mark his first 'loop-the-loop'.

At the outbreak of war Hucks joined the Royal Flying Corps Special Reserve and was posted to No. 4 Squadron of the BEF as a second lieutenant, later rising to captain. After an attack of pleurisy in early 1915 he was invalided and sent home. The condition prevented him from returning to the front and he became a flying instructor and chief test pilot for Airco (later De Havilland) at Hendon, where he flew many types of aircraft. In 1917 he designed and invented the 'Hucks Starter', a mobile, mechanical device based on an automobile chassis, for starting aero engines. Hucks died just days before the end of the war on 7th November 1918 of double pneumonia resulting from the Spanish flu pandemic. He was buried in Highgate Cemetery, London.

Alan Bowles
Tel: 814973

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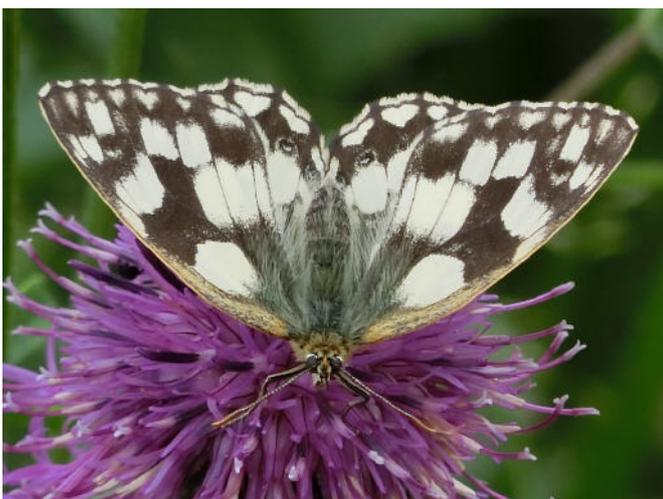
THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The society's website has been expanded to include a new series of interesting walking routes. The website already has 20 walks that start and finish at railway stations but their attraction has been severely reduced by the advice to avoid public transport during the coronavirus pandemic. Now the walks area of the website has two sections: station walks and other walks.



The new walks are all circular, starting and finishing at a location where there is normally space to park. The routes have been chosen for their attractiveness and level of interest, something which is not too difficult within the Hundred Parishes. All walk descriptions can be downloaded and printed and include an outline map of the route and clear instructions to help you find the way. Within the description there is a short introduction to some of the places you will pass. The new walks range in distance from one mile to 10 miles. Now that most of us can get out, please take the opportunity to explore new parts of our attractive countryside, villages and small towns. There is so much to appreciate in the Hundred Parishes, including the enchanting village of Henham (see photo above).



This photo shows the stunning Marbled White Butterfly, submitted by Tricia Moxie

Walking or cycling along paths, bridleways and less busy roads during lockdown have enabled us to admire the abundance of wildflowers and their insect visitors on field mar-

gins and wayside verges. Many of these insects are the familiar pollinators such as butterflies, hoverflies and bees.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

I hope that everybody has kept safe and well through lockdown. There has been a lot happening behind the scenes whilst we have been closed. Work is progressing on the tower and the scaffolding should be down by late July or early August. The interior has also been given a much-needed makeover. The ladies' toilets have finally been completely refurbished. I am sure that our female members will be delighted with the end result. The bar has been stripped back and a new surface fitted, as well as a new dishwasher and sink. The carpets and some of the vinyl floor coverings have been replaced and new seating has been installed. The walls and woodwork have been repainted and the place looks very different from the one that closed on 20th March! A new fire alarm system has been fitted and, alongside the new membership system, the total spend is in the region of £120,000. So if you have not renewed your membership yet, please do so. One milestone which we hit during lockdown was to make the final payment on the historic debts that the Club had. Your support has enabled us to clear approximately £110,000 worth of money owed by the Club. The plan was to reopen on **Friday 24th July** so all being well, we will be back in business by the time you read this. There are a number of social distancing measures in place that we



need everybody to follow. Initially there will be no live music due to Government rules. The jukebox will not be accepting cash, but you can install an app on your phone to enable you to play your favourite tunes. We look forward to seeing you all again!

Andrew Sharpe
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com



RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES AND STAMPS



We are still able to send cartridges for recycling. Although the churches where our collecting boxes are situated are still closed during the week, you can leave items in the box outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. For health reasons, we would prefer not to receive dental products at this time but you can still leave stamps and original (not remanufactured or own brand) ink cartridges. Alternatively, please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.



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

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Alzheimers Society	Tel: 01371 872519	Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: yplatham@uwclub.net
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St John's Road and Area Association	Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 812348 Email: vcl.essexwest- uttlesfordadminhub@nhs.net
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Nic Devine Email: kinglouie.huskies@gmail.com	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office Tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btintetnet.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rbarrett54@gmail.com	U3A	Ray Smith Tel: 813270
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 07759 157620 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	W I Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	W I (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill) music@stansted (Classical concerts) contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	Molly Clark Tel: 816768 Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email:	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School 506997	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Roberts Tel: 078648 21905		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

Index to Advertisers

	IFC - Inside Front Cover	IBC - Inside Back Cover	OBC - Outside Back Cover
Animal Care	Debs Dogs	16	Hairdressing Briggs Mobile Hairdresser 18
	Greenside Boutique Cattery	16	Barnet Fayre 18
	Mercer & Hughes	OBC	Claire's Gents Hairstylist 18
	Poochie Mumma	16	Lino Thomas OBC
Building Services	A C Wright Building Contractors	38	The Mainstreet Barber Shop 18
	David Lee	38	Halls for Hire Quaker Meeting House 16
	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	38	Manuden Community Centre 16
	David Fortune (Builder)	OBC	St John's Church Hall 16
	Uttlesford District Council	38	Ugley Village Hall 16
Carpentry	Vester Property Services	IBC	Household Installations D C Alarms 30
	Canfield Carpentry	38	Mediacomms 30
Chiropody	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	38	SDS Aerials 30
	R Handford	10	Sygma Security Systems 30
Cleaning	Julie Golden	10	Ironing Dunmow Ironing Parlour 18
	Clear Ovens	18	Jeweller John Wilson 10
Community & Care	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	18	Legal Herts and Essex Wills 26
	Broome End Care Home	8	Lever & Co Solicitors 26
	Hargrave House Care Home	8	Leisure American Re-enactment Group 18
	Hearing Help	10	Golf World IFC
	Helpline	10	Stansted Social Club 16
Computing	Human Roots	12	Motor Repairs D Bonney & Sons 26
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	8	Essex Autospray 26
	Ross Nursing Services	10	Music Lessons Carr (Piano, Organ, Singing) 12
	MCM Computer Services	10	Priest (Piano, Violin, Singing) 12
Dance	Taylor Computer Service	10	Hamilton (Singing) 12
	Graham School of Dance	12	Networking Stansted Business Forum 26
Dental	Castle Dental	6	Osteopathy & Physiotherapy Quendon Osteopathy 6
	Chapel Hill Dental	6	Williams (Osteopath) 6
Education & Children	Birchanger Butterflies Nursery	12	Painting, Decorating & Plastering Ada Decorating 32
	Howe Green House School	12	Brown's Painting & Decorating 32
	Rainbow Pre-School	12	David Duncan Decorating 32
	Tuition (ages 4 - 11)	12	Lesley Anne (Painting) 32
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	36	MWR Interiors 32
	CK Electrical	36	Prime Decor 32
	Stansted Electric	36	Ray on the Hill 32
Estate Agent	Murdochs	IBC	T F Plastering 32
Financial	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC	Personal Services Fresh Leaf (Hypnotherapy) 10
Furniture & Restoration	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	IFC	Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy) 10
	Furniture by Design	38	Stansted Psychotherapy 10
	Peter Worby Antiques Restoration	38	Plumbing & Heating Harpers Plumbing & Heating OBC
Fitness	Flexible Strength	6	JDW Gas Heating Specialist 36
	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6	Jones (Plumbing & Heating) 36
	Stansted Yoga Lounge	6	M Lloyd and Son 36
Food & Drink	Hadham Brewery	OBC	Newman's Home Services 36
	Lams Chinese Takeaway	IBC	Orion Heating 36
	Mayflower Chinese Takeaway	IBC	P Knight Plumbing 36
	The Dog & Duck	28	Stansted Gas Services 36
Garden Services	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC	Printing Chogou Printing & Embroidery 32
	Illuminating Gardens	30	CZ Design & Print 32
	Gill Owen & Colin Frost	28	Property Maintenance Do-It-4U 32
	Greenscroft Fencing	30	Fairweather Windows IFC
	Langthorns Plantery	28	Finch and Son OBC
	Mowtivated	28	Herts & Essex Window Doctor 32
	The Secret Gardener	28	Retailers Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts) IFC
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	26	Squires (Gifts, Plants and Cards) IBC
	J Day & Son (Stonemason)	26	Soft Furnishings & Sewing Stort Blinds IFC
			Teach me to Sew 12
			Tree Surgeons All Aspects Tree Services 28
			Tree Management Company 28
			Uppercut Trees 28

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