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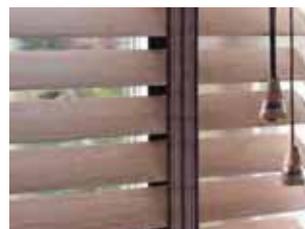
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Front cover: 'A Birchanger Butterfly' taken by Ros Sykes, edited by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS Up to 300 words in Word format. Photographs to be sent separately (jpeg).

By email (preferred) to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on 9th February for the March issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th February to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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1ST STANSTED BEAVERS

The Beavers had a very active year and we ended on a positive note by handing out three Chief Scout Bronze awards - the highest award a Beaver can gain.



To complete this award they have to complete four activity badges and six challenge badges, learn lots of new skills and take part in activities such as archery, climbing, and cooking on fires, as well as spending a night away from home. None of this would be possible without our brilliant adult leaders. We are currently looking for new volunteers to come and help us to continue to run scouting in Stansted. If you have any spare time and are interested in volunteering please get in touch via email: gsl.stansted@hatfieldforestscouts.org.uk.

Angela Madigan
Tel: 07908 303281



www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

We had a very busy term leading up to Christmas; the children enjoyed making decorations, calendars and Christmas cards which the majority of children then posted to their parents or carers. The term finished with a Christmas Party and Concert, enjoyed by everyone. We returned in January welcoming five new children and their families. This term we are looking at growing and keeping healthy. Our Forest School sessions continue on Wednesday afternoons. The children have recently had a fire where they cooked crumpets, and have been learning how to use tools safely. They have had opportunities to explore our ever-changing environment, looking at the leaves that have fallen from the trees and signs of animals in the winter.

Our qualified, experienced team are pleased to be able to take children from two years old and offer up to 30 hours per week. The sessions we offer are 9.00am-noon, noon-3.00pm and 9.00am-3.00pm. If you are interested in a place please email or phone us. We have a few spaces left for the current academic year and are now taking registrations for September 2020.

Karen Reilly
Pre-school Manager
Tel: 810800
Email: admin@birchangerbutterflies.org.uk



MANUDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.manudenprimary.co.uk

We have had a great start to the new year. In January, as part of our continuing drive to celebrate our love of reading, we held a day dedicated to British role models. Each class focused on a particular author and had great fun finding out and thinking about the qualities and traits that made them good examples. Snowy Owl Class, our reception children, looked at Beatrix Potter and thought that not only her story-writing and drawing talents made her a good role model but the fact that she was a hard-working farmer too. Barn Owl Class, our Year 1 and 2 children, looked at Jill Murphy and thought that her creative imagination and perseverance made her a good example. Year 3 and 4 children in Hawk Owl Class chose Roald Dahl as they thought he had inspired so many children to read through his inventive characters and finally, our Year 5 and 6 children chose J K Rowling for her determination in pursuing her writing dream even when many publishers rejected her work. Each class created a wonderful statue of their chosen author which were used to create a display. Each term, we will be exploring different British role models in other areas.

If you are new to the village and are interested in joining our very special village school, then please do contact the school office; our headteacher, Mrs Bratley, will be happy to speak to you and give you a tour of the school. We look forward to sharing our vision with you: nurturing life skills and inspiring achievement for today and tomorrow.

Manuden Primary School
Tel: 813379
Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk



Investigators is a group for children aged around 6-11 years who meet at the Free Church Hall on **Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm**. We enjoy a mixture of games, Bible stories, challenges, creative activities and other items of interest. Last term we made lanterns, and some bug-themed crafts, as well as playing various lively and quieter games. Dodgeball and balloon volleyball are definite favourites, as well as *Islands and Sharks* and *Human Noughts and Crosses*. We use the stories as a stimulus for games, crafts, discussions and drama on various themes which are relevant to everyone. Although some attend a church, or a church school, most do not, and children of any faith or none are most welcome. If your child would like to try Investigators in February, please contact me as soon as possible, as places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Although most children are aged seven and over, we do accept confident six year-olds, especially siblings, as we know many do not want to wait until their 7th birthday to join in the fun! All leaders are DBS checked and have undertaken appropriate safeguarding training.



Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Email: rospagemusic@yahoo.com



www.rainbowpreschool-stansted.co.uk

Our annual Nativity Play in December was very well attended by parents, family and friends. The children retold the story of the nativity beautifully. The Christmas hamper raffle raised over £200; many thanks to everyone who bought tickets. The money is going towards the purchase of a new wooden castle and various figures, such as knights and princesses, for the children to play with. We would also like to say a very big thank you to the Stansted Fire Fighters for the donation of £300 from their street collection on the Saturday before Christmas. This money is going towards the purchase of *People Who Help Us* resources, which will include another wooden fire engine, to go with our existing set, plus a police station, vehicles and figures.



We are pleased to welcome new children and staff into the Rainbow family. Miranda and Lucy, both experienced Level 3 practitioners, have joined our team and will be working with children in both the Explorers and Adventurers groups. We take children from 2½ years to rising 5. If you are interested in applying for a place, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242

Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

STANSTED DAY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE THE CRAFTON ROOM

Holding a quiz, a family get-together or a club dinner? Then why not hire Stansted Day Centre at £8 an hour, plus £10 if using the kitchen. If you don't know the Day Centre, then we are happy to show you round on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10.00am-noon. If these times are not convenient, then we can arrange another time; just phone the Day Centre on 815091 or contact me. By the time this February edition of The Link lands on your doorstep, the Mountfitchet Exchange will have been open a few weeks, so you may have already visited us for morning refreshments. If you are visiting the Parish Council or the library on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays pop next door for a drink and a homemade cheese or fruit scone. You will find a warm welcome from our cooks and volunteers. If you are aged 55 or over, then we do a home-cooked two course lunch for £6.50, including a drink. Just let us know by 11.00am on the day that you are coming. Special diets are catered for.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

We have been looking back at our recent snowdrop days but they give us little clue as to what we can expect: we had a heatwave in February 2019 with record temperatures more like an early summer's day and in February 2018 the start of the Beast from the East! Undaunted, we are planning for the best and building a new wooden gazebo so that we can have an additional catering outlet, just in case! Our snowdrop Open Days are on **16th and 23rd February**; gates open 11.30am with last entry at 3.00pm. Our volunteers stand ready to provide tasty homemade soup; bacon, cheese and hummus rolls; and of course homemade cakes! We will have snowdrops in the green for sale. In 2019 Landsec funded the restoration of the stone steps into the Italian Garden and, based on that really positive experience, we are planning the restoration of the balustrade around the lily pond this year. Members of the Co-op can support this project every time they shop – so if that includes you, even if you only shop there occasionally, please sign up to help us. More details on www.eastonlodge.co.uk/support-us/fund-raising. Our website shows all our 2020 events, so why not take a look, put the dates in your diary and maybe buy a season ticket? They are excellent value!

Jill Goldsmith
Treasurer and Publicity
Tel: 07947 183439

STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



The theme in December was *The Greatest Gift* and the children had great fun wrapping each other up as Christmas presents!



Our next event is on **Sunday 2nd February** 3.30pm-5.00pm at St Mary's School. This relaxed and lively style of church for all ages has activities, celebration and food, and plenty of fun. Everyone is welcome, particularly families with children aged under 12, and there is no charge. See our website for more details including photographs of past Messy Church sessions, which will give you a flavour of what goes on! We look forward to seeing you there.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



EDITORIAL



Welcome to the first edition of The Link for 2020. This issue is full of reviews of the many and varied seasonal celebrations which took place in the local area at the end of 2019. It all looks huge fun, and it is great to see so much going on within such a small area; I think that Stansted and surrounding villages punch way above their weight in terms of creative, charitable and religious events. This week's front cover sums up the festive season for me: a little child sending positive and cheery thoughts to someone whom they love. Our thanks to Birchanger Butterflies Pre-School for sending the picture to us.

I was in fact in Argentina and Chile in the second half of December and over New Year; Buenos Aires and Santiago were about 30°; the sight of Christmas trees in that heat was a bit of a culture shock. Further south, in Patagonia, it was icy and felt much more like Christmas at home. All this brings me to a new idea put forward by The Link team: if you would like to write a summary of any exotic trip you have been on, including a few photos, it would be most welcome. These should be sent to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk. I will set the ball rolling next month with a write-up of Chile, Argentina and Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

Marion and Mike Dyer did the vast majority of the editing work this month as I was away; my sincere thanks to them for their incredibly hard work. The Link team is a very strong one and I am proud to be part of it.

STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

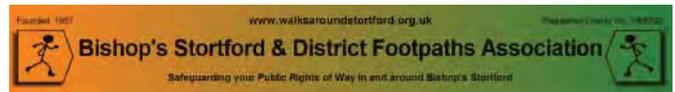
www.smsc.uk.com

We hope that you all had a healthy and happy Christmas and New Year, and that you have not abandoned those resolutions just yet! The Club went from strength to strength during 2019 with membership now above 600 and we thank everybody for their continued support. It may not be obvious from the outside, but a lot of work has been taking place in the tower. A large amount of propping and remedial work has been completed so it will not be long before the outside is stripped down and rebuilt. We had some cracking entertainment during December and January and the theme continues throughout February. Things kick off on **Saturday 1st** with the welcome return of the fabulous *Gladragz*. **Saturday 15th** sees *Afterlife* back again, with their fantastic mix of rock covers. Not for the faint hearted! On **Saturday 22nd** there is a newcomer to the Club with the appearance of *The Queen Bees*. They bring a mix of blues and rock and it's one not to be missed. On **Sunday 23rd** we have our usual *karaoke* session and everybody is welcome. We round things off on **Saturday 29th** with the appearance of *Revival*.

Another date for your diary is **Saturday 9th May** when we are commemorating VE Day with a 40s style event. We are hoping to raise money for a military charity as part of the event. With so much wonderful entertainment lined up for 2020, what better time to become a member? If you join now the price is just £25 and that will take you through until the end of March 2021, so two free months! What's not to like about that?! You can download a membership form from the website or come to the Club and pick one up.



Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 822992
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com



www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

Sunday walks departing at 10.00am 5-6 miles

9th February Quendon, Quendon Village Hall TL 513301
Postcode CB11 3XQ
23rd February Stansted Mountfitchet (Mountfitchet Castle)
Car Park TL 515248, Postcode CM24 8LY

Be aware that footpaths across the fields which form part of the Stortford North Developments may be subject to temporary closure. We will monitor this and try to ensure closure is not permanent, and routes are kept open during construction. Countryside and Rights of Way monthly news has a new online eNews version. Herts County Council and East Herts District Council are currently drafting a *cycle corridor study* from the Lea Valley to Stansted Airport via Harlow and Bishop's Stortford, which is very detailed and full of interesting possibilities. The latest Essex/Uttlesford Cycling Strategy Document produced in 2018 does not identify any flagship route for Stansted village, although it does state that with the right infrastructure and incentives from employers at and around the airport, the share of cycling by employees could grow significantly - and now there is the addition of the college at the airport.

It is with sadness we report that our former secretary, Anne Lowe, died on 6th December after a long illness. She had suffered from cancer for several years, and although it was terminal she was about to start chemotherapy at the beginning of December; but unfortunately the cancer spread rapidly and she was too ill to receive it.



Daphne Wallace-Jarvis
Publicity Officer
Email: dwjwj.444@gmail.com



Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 2nd Feb
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www.stanstedchurches.com



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WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

2	Sun	Stansted Messy Church	St Mary's School 3.30 pm
4	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
5	Wed	Mountfichet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
6	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
7	Fri	Business Forum	Linden House 7 am
9	Sun	Link copy due in today S W Symphony Film Music	before 12 noon Saffron Hall 3 pm
10	Mon	Ladies' Night	Tennis Club from 6.30 pm
11	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
12	Wed	W I Coffee Morning	Day Centre 10 am - noon
13	Thu	Stansted W I	Day Centre 7.30 pm
15	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
16 & 23	Sun	Snowdrop Open Days	Easton Lodge 11.30 am - 3 pm
18	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 pm
19	Wed	Coffee with Cops Ugley WI	Free Church Foyer 10 am - noon Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
20	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 - 4 pm
21	Fri	Wine Tasting	Mountfichet Exchange 7.30 pm
22	Sat	Stansted Hall Cricket Quiz	B Stortford College 7 for 7.30 pm
23	Sun	Family Café Winter Walkies	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am St Clare Hospice 11 am
25	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon
Sat 15th Feb
Ugley Village Hall 
Meat ~ Fish ~ Eggs ~ Honey
Cheese ~ Cakes ~ Plants
 *Fresh Pasta ~ Bread*
Cards ~ Ceramics ~ Fruit & Veg
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To advertise your event here tel 814059 email: events@stanstedlink.org.uk
Inclusion is subject to editorial decision & availability of space



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7.30 pm Thu 19th & Fri 20th March
3 pm & 7.30 pm Sat 21st March
The Rhodes Arts Complex
Tickets: Adults £16, Conc £14
Sat Matinee £12
Tel 710200 or on the door
www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk



Stansted Millers

Annual General Meeting
with Wine, Soft Drinks & Nibbles
7.30 for 8 pm
Wednesday 25th March
Stansted Day Centre
All Welcome



10 am - noon Wed 19th Feb
Stansted Free Church Foyer
(The Place on the Hill)
*Come and meet your local Police
Community Support Officer*
Email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk



WINTER WALKIES 5k Dog Walk

11 am Sun 23rd Feb
at the Hospice, Hastingwood
Adults £10 Children £5
see www.stclarehospice.org.uk
or call Emma on 773754
Everyone Welcome



Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ
7 for 7.30 pm Sat 22nd Feb
Bishop's Stortford College
Adults £14, Under 18s £9
to include fish/chicken/veggie & chips
Advance booking please
Tel 831011 Mob 07788 999663

Stansted Town Twinning WINE TASTING 7.30 pm Fri 21st Feb Mountfichet Exchange

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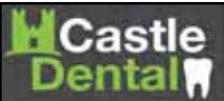
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1ST ELSENHAM GUIDES

Last term was full of fun. The girls have understood what makes them unique by creating a DNA card unique to them. We have been creative in the kitchen as the guides experimented with flavours and decorations whilst making an array of confectionery treats! We celebrated bonfire night at Stansted Scout hut with open fire cooking and of course some brilliant campfire singing, and Halloween with a pumpkin carving session. On top of all that, the girls have had the chance to take part in events outside our meeting place with a special trip to Ace of Lanes to celebrate a Jack Petchey Award for one of our guides, and a district film night with Toy Story 4 accompanied by hot chocolate, popcorn and friends! This term we hope to get to grips with vlogging and thinking about how we can positively influence someone or a group. We have Pancake Day to look forward to as well as a few scientific investigating sessions.



If you have a daughter aged between 10 and 14 who would be interested in joining a unit of lovely, like-minded girls, who go on adventures, learn new skills, make new friends, and most importantly have fun, then please do get in touch.

Gemma Lewis
Leader

Email: elsenhamguides@gmail.com



RECYCLE INK, STAMPS AND TOOTHBRUSHES!



Thank you to all who have donated so far; a reminder that we are collecting the following:

Original Ink Cartridges

Money raised goes towards the expenses of Messy Church and any nil-value cartridges are sent back to the manufacturer, thereby avoiding going to landfill.

Postage Stamps

The money raised from these goes to The Leprosy Mission.

Dental Products

Toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes; money raised goes to Essex Air Ambulance.

There is a collecting box for all of the above in the Free Church Foyer (which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm), and also one in the Free Church Hall. If you cannot take items to the church, you can bring them to 7 Blythwood Gardens (leave in the porch if we are out) or we can collect from you. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



No safe limit for air pollution

Recent research published in the British Medical Journal has shown that airborne emissions of fine carbon particles known as PM_{2.5} can have serious health impacts even when the level of concentration is below the World Health Organisation's guideline limits for air pollution. PM_{2.5} emanates from fuel combustion and is one of the major issues associated with airport expansion, because of the additional air pollution from increased flights and road traffic. The research confirms previously established associations between PM_{2.5} and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, Parkinson's and diabetes, plus evidence of health impacts not previously associated with PM_{2.5} including septicaemia, fluid and electrolyte disorders, skin infections and infections of the urinary tract. Stansted Airport is already a major source of PM_{2.5} air pollution and was required to provide a report, which showed that if its planning application to increase throughput from 35 to 43 million passengers per annum were to be approved, the airport would be responsible for putting 13.6 tonnes of PM_{2.5} per annum into the air that we, as local residents, have to breathe. That is 25% more than today, which is wholly unacceptable, when this new research removes all doubt as to the connection between airborne pollution from fine carbon particles and severe health impacts upon the local population. The paramount duty of Uttlesford District Council is to do all that it can to safeguard the health of its local residents.

SSE Campaign Office

Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com



The children were very excited when Father Christmas visited our Christmas Special events in early December!



The Place is open every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday** 9.30am-12.30pm. All ages are welcome, so come along for free refreshments and a chat, and log on to our free Wi-Fi. Good company, computers, space for the children to play with toys and run around, plus a quiet area with comfy seating; and if you fancy keeping your mind active, we have a jigsaw 'on the go' which anyone is welcome to add pieces to! We are in the foyer of Stansted Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill (near Chogou). On **Wednesday 19th February** 10.00am-noon we are hosting *Coffee with Cops* but we will still be open for our usual visitors.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059



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

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careuk.com/mountfitchet-house





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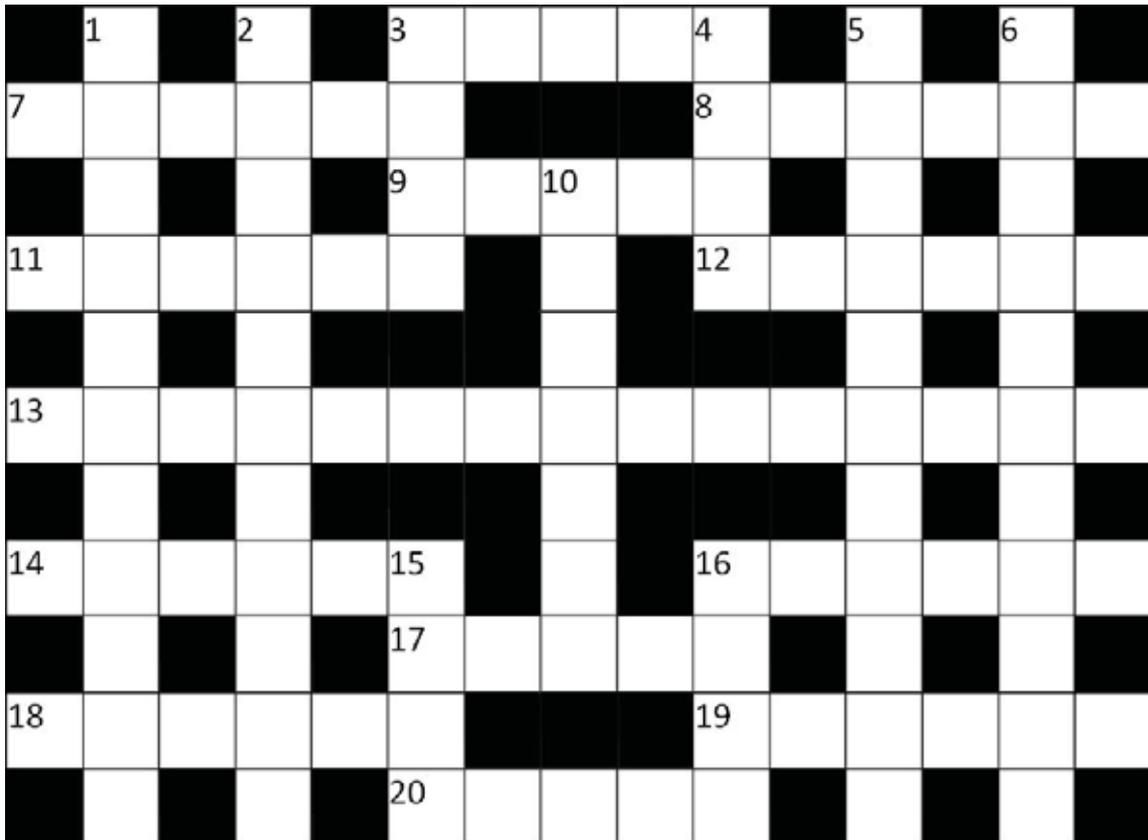
Are you planning a holiday but worry about a dependent elderly relative? Do you want a 'day out' for shopping, visiting friends or simply need a break but are concerned about leaving Mum/Dad without care?

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--	---

Head Office: The Lodge, Coopers Lane Road, Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, EN6 4AD. Tel:01707 665515 - www.ScimitarCare.co.uk - mail@ScimitarCare.co.uk

FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 27

ACROSS

- 3 Saucy dance (5)
- 7 Yellow fruit (6)
- 8 Element given as a meal (6)
- 9 Anger over posh cooker (5)
- 11 Festival of light (6)
- 12 Up-to-date, fashion wise (6)
- 13 In a knockout competition, he's the winner (4,3,8)
- 14 Where knowledge is taught (6)
- 16 Concurred (6)
- 17 Dilly found this beautiful scene (5)
- 18 Cut into a metal plate (6)
- 19 German subs (1-5)
- 20 Drug Britain went to war over (6)

DOWN

- 1 Activity can be seen at Pope's place (7,4)
- 2 Disaster (11)
- 3 Worn by ladies at 11 (4)
- 4 Aid (4)
- 5 Halt, who goes there? Good Guy or bad? (6,2,3)
- 6 Sounds a drastic way of being 13 (6,5)
- 10 A 14 for the very young (7)
- 15 Outdoor pool complex (4)
- 16 Chemical found in a bay on the Isle of Wight (4)

CARS QUIZ

Each question gives clues to the model names of cars from one manufacturer. Identify the manufacturer and the names of the models

- 1 an insect
two games
a pop singer
a wind
- 2 a mountain
a bird
a horse
an astronomical phenomenon
a park keeper
- 3 a box
a page
a Venetian island
an astronomical body
- 4 a festivity
a music genre
three towns in Brazil, Spain and Italy
- 5 an Indian tribe
a direction finder
a rebel
a brand of jeans
a country lover
- 6 cities in New Mexico and Arizona
a classical music form
a rock band

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 29

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At thestage Stortford

Saturday 8th 7.30pm **Griff Rhys Jones: All Over the Place**
 Wednesday 12th 7.30pm **Rocco Lane - Prog Jazz**
 Friday 14th 7.30pm **Lollypops and Moptops**
 Saturday 15th 11.00am and 1.30pm **Rumpelstiltskin**
 Friday 21st 1.00pm **Brace of Spades**
 Friday 21st 7.30pm **The Neil Diamond Story**
 Saturday 22nd 7.00pm **Woman Like Me**
 Friday 28th 7.30pm **Scummy Mummies**
 Saturday 29th 7.30pm **Jeeves and Wooster - In Perfect Nonsense**

At thescreen Stortford

Saturday 1st 7.30pm and Sunday 2nd 3.00pm **Andre Rieu 70 Years Young**
 Monday 3rd 2.00pm (Babies Screening) and 7.30pm **Cats**
 Tuesday 4th 2.00pm **Marriage Story**
 Tuesday 4th 7.30pm and Sunday 9th 2.00pm **Kinky Boots**
 Friday 7th 2.00pm **The Street**
 Saturday 8th 11.00am **Spies in Disguise** (Kids for a Quid)
 Tuesday 11th 2.00pm **Kind Hearts and Coronets** (Timeless Tuesdays Dementia Friendly Screening)
 Tuesday 11th 7.30pm and Wednesday 12th 2.00pm **Jo Jo Rabbit**
 Thursday 13th 7.30pm **Billy Connolly**
 Tuesday 18th 2.00pm and 7.30pm **Bombshell**
 Thursday 20th 7.30pm **Matthew Bourne's Romeo and Juliet**
 Monday 24th 2.00pm and Thursday 27th 7.30pm **The Personal Life of David Copperfield**
 Monday 24th 7.30pm and Thursday 27th 2.00pm **1917**

At themuseum Stortford

Saturday 1st 11.00am **Museum Tour**
 Saturday 1st 11.00am **Knit and Natter**
 Tuesday 4th 12.30pm **Take Me Back Tuesday**
 Wednesday 12th 1.30pm **Story Time at the Museum**
 Monday 17th 12.30pm **Lunchtime Lectures**
 Tuesday 18th to Thursday 20th 11.00am-3.00pm **Half Term Children's Crafts**

Elizabeth Murphy
Tel: 710200



Sunday 9th February 3.00pm Saffron Hall

Back by popular demand, we will be presenting an afternoon of **film music** featuring classics from the silver screen. There will be familiar favourites but also a few items that may be new to the audience. You are guaranteed some good tunes to whistle on the way home! The programme includes *Psycho*, *The Third Man*, *Superman*, *The Simpsons* and many more. Tickets: adults £15 or £18, under 18s £3 from Saffron Walden Tourist Information tel 01799 524002, Saffron Hall tel 0845 548 7650, online www.saffronhall.com or on the door.



Marion Dyer



www.waterlanetheatrecompany.co.uk

In celebration of our 70th anniversary we are proud to present *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie at the Rhodes Arts Complex on **Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March** at 7.30pm and **Saturday 21st March** at 3.00pm and 7.30pm. This *whodunnit* promises to keep you on the edge of your seat. Stranded on an island, ten strangers, each with a secret to hide, await their fate. Tickets: adults £16, concessions £14, matinee £12 from the box office on 710200 or via www.rhodesartscomplex.org.uk. This production is supporting Grove Cottage. Formed as an amateur company in Bishop's Stortford in 1950, we won an award with the National Operatic and Dramatic Association for *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in 2009; we also had nominations for *Calendar Girls* and *The Winslow Boy* in October 2013 and *Murder on the Nile* in 2018. We won best production shield for *'Allo, 'Allo* in 2015. We welcome new members both on and off stage - please contact us for details.

John Johnson-Cook
Email: waterlanetc@gmail.com

STANSTED CARE HOMES WIN AWARDS

I am delighted to announce that Broome End Care Home has won *Home of the Year* at the **2019 Essex Care Sector awards**. Our staff have improved the lives of residents by finding new and inventive ways to reduce risk of falls, pressure ulcers and urinary tract infections (UTIs). A year ago Broome End received a Care Quality Commission rating of 'good', following the hard work of management and staff.



I was also delighted to be awarded Highly Commended in the *Champion of Champions* category. I was responsible for leading the project and engaging staff to share their views and ideas about how to make positive changes to improve the lives of our residents.

Kirsty Allen
Deputy Manager
Tel: 816455

The Link team were pleased to hear that, at the same awards, Mountfitchet House Care Home won *End of Life*, and maintenance manager Peter Birsan was Highly Commended in the *Unsung Hero* category. Many congratulations to both homes.

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STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Welcoming the New Decade with Confidence

As we start a new decade it is encouraging that the UK may well be entering a period of greater certainty. Stort Valley Rotary are also entering 2020 with considerable optimism. Stansted Airport have confirmed that they are joining us as a Corporate member; with the airport very much dominating the local economy this is a major boost to our Club. We have also reached agreement with our charity partner, *Aspects*, who will be delivering support for children with mental health challenges. This adds to the support we offer children through our Life Education programme with *Coram*, our other charity partner. The areas we support are highly specialised and working with properly qualified partners is so important. The picture below shows Rotary members Derek Crowther and Gwenda Deal handing a cheque for £2,200 to Ann Creitzman from Aspects.



We wish everyone the very best for 2020 and invite you to join us so we are able to reach out to support more children in our community. Please contact us via our website.



Peter Latham
Tel: 507294
Email: yp.latham@uwclub.net

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the November draw:

£100 No 19 Richard Shervington
£50 No 232 Eirwen Butcher
£25 No 144 Stuart Ayres

Congratulations also to the winners of the December draw:

£200 No 137 Matthew Jessup
£100 No 109 Jean Newson
£50 No 201 Olly Pocknell
£25 No 121 Margaret Chastney

The next draw is on 23rd February in St John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each per month are still available for anyone who would like to join. There are 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

ALPHA COURSE TASTER SESSIONS



Taster Sessions for the world-renowned **Alpha Course** (see www.alpha.org) are on **Monday 10th February** at the Day Centre: daytime (time to be confirmed) or evening at 7.30pm. Like each session of the course itself, the taster includes a meal, a 15 minute film and discussion time. It is an opportunity to cut through negative headlines and stereotypes, and to find out what the Christian faith is **really** about, and how it helps people in their everyday lives in 2020. There will be opportunities to put forward questions you might like to hear discussed during the course, and to find out more about the course content. For those who are interested we will be running the Alpha Course (Part 1) over the following four weeks (either daytime or evening) with an option to continue to the Holy Spirit Day and remaining sessions. The Alpha Course is an internationally-recognised series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk focuses on a different question and is designed to encourage a conversation where people of any faith or none can express their own views and/or listen to others' points of view. It is aimed at those who would not consider themselves Christians and are not connected to a church, as well as those who maybe attend church sometimes but would like to understand more and ask questions. There is no charge for attending or for the meal, but for catering purposes please contact us to book your preferred taster session (daytime or evening) **by Monday 3rd February at the latest**. Stansted's Alpha is being run by Stansted Family Church, with support from members of other churches. To book a place on one of the Taster sessions just phone or email as below.



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

VILLAGE CAROL SINGING

Our visit to Mountfitchet House Care Home on the Sunday before Christmas was a delightful occasion for residents and singers alike. Thank you to all those who came along to enjoy nearly an hour of singing or just listening to favourite carols. We were delighted to hear that some of the residents have formed their own choir, and this became evident when their voices joined with those of the visitors.



We were kept in tune by Fran who kindly stepped in at short notice to play her flute. Thanks also to Denise from Mountfitchet House who made us all very welcome.



Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

The Quaker approach to community invites each of us to live up to our unique potential, while learning to go beyond the boundaries of our own small selves, as part of our commitment to one another. The Quaker understanding is that the Spirit is always at work in this wider community, and discernible if we truly listen together and to each other - that God's will can be recognised through the discipline of silent waiting together. As I reflected on this spiritual discipline, the following prayer emerged:

Silence

When the world tells us what to do with our time, talents or temptations, let us learn

What we are to do with our silence

When the world tells us what to do with our activity, achievements or apathy, let us learn

What we are to do with our silence

When the world tells us what to do with our spending power, speaking power or social power, let us learn

What we are to do with our silence

When the world tells us what we are to do with others who are different, seemingly undeserving or unworthy, let us learn

What we are to do with our silence

When the world tells us to abandon hope, forgiveness or peace, let us learn

What we are to do with our silence

This process of waiting in silence for the guidance of the Spirit/Light, involves us letting go of our own personal agendas, so that God's will for all may come to fruition in due course. In a world so full of stress, uncertainty and noise, let's give *silence* a chance!

Heather Kent
Member of Stansted Quaker Meeting

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
Stansted CM24 8AE
www.saffronquakers.org.uk/stanstedhtml



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

Meeting Sunday, 10.30am every week

Light Group (Guided Meditation) Second Saturday of each month
10.30am-12 noon
'Experiment with Light' is a process that helps people deepen their spiritual lives by discovering what it means to 'wait in the Light', as early Quakers did. All welcome. Contact Sue 771405.

All enquiries including Church Hall bookings The Church Office, St John's Hall, St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243 (with answerphone)
Office hours: 9.00am-noon Mon, Wed, Fri
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com
Website: www.stanstedstjohns.btck.co.uk

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

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

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

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

St John's Diary

Sunday
8.00am Said Holy Communion
9.30am Choral Eucharist (2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays)
9.30am Family Communion (1st Sunday)

Tuesday 9.15am St John's Tots
Wednesday 9.00am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
Thursday 10.30am-noon The Coffee Pot
Monday-Thursday and Saturday 5.00pm Evening Prayer

A monthly service of Holy Communion is held for residents in two Stansted care homes: on the first Wednesday (Hargrave House) and the second Tuesday (Mountfitchet House).

From St John's Registers November

Baptisms
17th Lillian Audra Workman
Leah Beatrice Kent

Funerals
6th Ronald William White, at St Mary's followed by burial in cemetery
21st Ann Vance Owen, at St John's followed by crematorium

December

Baptism
8th Elizabeth Neve Joan Duffy

Funeral
12th Tilly Anne Davies, at St Mary's followed by burial in cemetery



Tel: 812323

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ

www.sttheresasstansted.org

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

Priest Father Lee Bennett
Tel: 814349
Email: frleebennett@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Our Christian beliefs are conventional, we are just doing church differently.

Parish Deacon Rev'd Deacon Des Connors
Tel: 07748 464101
Email: desconnors@dioceseofbrentwood.org

We have two different formats on Mondays and Tuesdays at 7.30pm: **Crossroads** takes a break in February, while we run the **Alpha Course** on Mondays (see separate article); and **The Vine**, Bible-study, modern worship music and prayer most likely to be of interest to Christians, meets on **Monday 3rd February and Tuesday 18th February**. Please contact us for more details and venues. Visitors are always welcome - you do not have to be a member of Family Church, or any church, to attend. If you would like to join a prayer walk, or 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? **Investigators** Children's Group runs on **Fridays 6.15pm-7.45pm** at the Free Church Hall; games, Bible stories and fun activities suitable for children with or without a church connection.

Administrator
Clair Rava
Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Masses		
	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	10.00am
	Monday	9.30am
	Tuesday	8.00pm (Latin)
	Wednesday	12.30pm
	Thursday	9.30am
	Friday	9.30am



Ros and Howard Page

Confessions
Every day for half an hour before each Mass

Baptism By appointment



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CAMEO

(Come and Meet Each Other)

Minister Rev'd Roy Fowler
Tel: 814809
Email: minister@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for February

2 nd	10.30am	Nicola Grieves - New Directions
9 th	10.30am	Mike Render
19 th	10.30am	Rev'd Gill Hulme
23 rd	10.30am	Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion

The Salvation Army CAMEO group meets at 7.00pm on the third Tuesday of the month at Stansted Day Centre. The cost is £1 and includes an evening topic, and fellowship over tea, coffee and biscuits to finish. In November we had a lovely time of sharing edible treats, poetry, stories, decorations and very old Christmas cards – a great way to finish the year. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 18th February** where we will be sharing in each other's favourite music, an evening postponed from last year. We look forward to the variety which will be brought along to be heard by those gathered. May we take this opportunity to thank all of you who supported us in our carolling efforts and toy appeal this year; we were overwhelmed by people's generosity. Bishop's Stortford Salvation Army also meets each Sunday morning at 10.30am in Markwell Pavillion, Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford and you would be welcome to join us for our Sunday service. We hope to see you soon.

MARY EMERSON

My mother died on 25th November following hip surgery after a fall. She celebrated her 100th birthday on 30th June 2019 and it was featured in The Link. A private cremation took place before Christmas and a celebration of mum's life was held on 22nd January in Ugley Village Hall.



Captain Megan Kervin
Tel: 507464

Email: megan.kervin@salvationarmy.org.uk

Kathy Hunt



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Tel: 01279 814052 Email: uglevillagehall@gmail.com



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Our Christmas Lunch at Bury Lodge on 19th December was very well attended and a great success. Before lunch we were entertained by the Strummers, the Singers having appeared at the Hadham Golf Club Christmas Lunch on the 15th. We are very grateful to the local businesses who donated raffle prizes.



The year 2020 is promising to be another busy one with plenty to look forward to. There is a full list of speakers for the monthly general meetings on the Trips and Events page of the website. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 20th February** 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St John's Hall. This will be a talk by Tracy Mackness from the Giggly Pig Organic Farm. At the meeting she will be selling sausages, other produce and her books. The first theatre trip is to see the West End Show *Pretty Woman* at the Piccadilly Theatre on **Wednesday 4th March**. It will be a matinée performance starting at 2.30pm and costs £47. By the time you read this it may be fully booked, but please see the Trips and Events page of the website for information on how to book or add your name to the waiting list. The Saturday Seminar programme for the year is now almost complete and includes talks on a range of subjects such as Art, History and Science. The first seminar is on **Saturday 14th March** when Neil Faulkner will give a talk entitled the *The History of the World in a Morning*.

Anne White
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 4th February** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig. We are looking forward to reading this wild and bittersweet story about a 41-year-old history teacher who has been alive for centuries. He recounts stories from Elizabethan England to Jazz-Age Paris, from New York to the South Seas and somewhere along the way finds out about the lifetimes it can take to really learn how to live. Please do join us - we meet on the first Tuesday of every month and a warm welcome will await.



Anne Watson
Tel: 898693
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



HENHAM CHRISTMAS MARKET

Raising money for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to support our charity event and to those who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes, helped on the day, drank the tea and bought raffle tickets. Also to our fantastic range of stallholders, Janette for her fabulous knitted toys which we sold adding to our total, and Optoelectronics, Aquaid and E Corr for their generous donations. We are delighted to report that together we raised a phenomenal £5,009. Many thanks from Jo, Lara, Lesley and myself.

Anna Sedgbeer
Committee



ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

New Carers' Group

The hospice is launching a free support group for local people within West Essex and East Herts, who care for or support a friend or relative living with a life-limiting illness or disability. The group aims to provide information, skills and support to help informal carers cope with the challenges they may face caring for someone close. The group will run on Fridays from **7th February to 20th March** 10.00am-noon alongside Café Clare, which is a drop-in event for patients and families at the Hospice, as well as members of the community who wish to visit or engage with St Clare. You will need to book and undergo a telephone assessment. Please call 773768.

Winter Walkies Sunday 23rd February

Join our 5k dog walk through the beautiful Essex countryside, starting and finishing at the hospice. More than 200 walkers are expected to attend with their furry friends, raising thousands in vital funding that goes towards St Clare's care and support services.



The walk starts at 11.00am, but entrants can come along to soak up the atmosphere and register from 10.00am. You can also register in advance on our website: adults £10, children £5, which includes free soup, dog rosette and certificates for children. This year's event is sponsored by Forest Veterinary Centre, Epping. Thanks also to Paris Hill Farm for supplying the route for the 5k walk. For more information email: emma.broadbent@stclarehospice.org.uk or call 773754.

Emma Sugarman

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

THE MOUNTFITCHET EXCHANGE

By the time you read this The Mountfitchet Exchange should be fully fitted out and functioning as a home for the library service and The Parish Council. You can also access District and County Council services, the Citizens Advice Bureau, and contact Nicki, our Police Community Support Officer. We intend to hold an official ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new building sometime in the Spring.

There will be a member of the Parish Council staff on the front desk from 9.00am until 4.00pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and from 9.00am until 1.00pm on Wednesday. There will also be Essex County Council librarians available during their opening hours. Books can still be returned and issued outside the library opening hours using a self-scanning machine. The library computers will also be available but there will be no support available if a librarian is not present. See page 20 for more details of Stansted Library opening hours and what the Library Service offers. You will also be able to access basic photocopying and printing services at reasonable rates. Library and Parish Council staff will be happy to help you with this. This kind of service has not been available in the village since the closure of Millways so we are very pleased to offer this to residents and businesses.



Many of you will have had a glimpse inside the building when it was used as a polling station for the December General Election, but if you haven't had a chance to have a look inside yet, please feel free to drop in and see what our new community building has to offer.

FLOOD DANGERS

Heavy rain just before Christmas resulted in a warning, generated by the sensors that the Parish Council have fitted in the brook, of potential flooding in the village. When we get a warning like this it is essential the culverts that carry all the water that runs off the fields are kept clear of any blockages. As a lot of debris gets washed down, we rely on our volunteer flood wardens to put on their wellies and waterproofs to keep the grids on the culverts clear.



Our photograph shows two volunteers working hard at the culvert in Gall End Lane where the grills often get clogged up with vegetation. If this isn't cleared fairly promptly, there is a high probability that water will quickly build up, the brook will break its bank, and flood water will quickly spread down into Lower Street, threatening residential and commercial properties. We currently have eight people who have volunteered to be first call flood wardens, but there is never any guarantee that they will be available to respond to a flood warning. This was certainly the case with the most recent flood alert as most of the wardens were at work and several were away on holiday. We desperately need more volunteers, so please consider offering your services by contacting the Parish Council office.

Our climate problems seem pretty insignificant compared to what other parts of the UK and wider world are facing, and our thoughts as we write are very much with the Indonesian people suffering dreadful flooding, and the devastating bush fires in Australia.

That said, we need to do everything we can to protect our own village and also make a determined effort to make sure our individual households and the wider community do their bit to try and minimise the negative impact our activities have on climate change. To this end a **Climate Change Group** is being established in the village. A fuller article on this will appear in next month's Link, but in the meantime if you would like to get involved in this group please contact the Parish Council office.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

The second of our profiles focuses on Vice Chairman, Fran Richards. Fran has lived in the village for 43 years and has served as a Parish Councillor for 16 years. She is now retired after spending her working life as a children's nurse specialist and a health visitor.

The Vice Chairman should be ready to chair meetings of the Full Council in the absence of the Chairman, and is a member of all the committees, so they need to keep themselves fully briefed on all aspects of the council's work. In addition, Fran chairs the personnel sub-committee and is the Parish Council's representative on the Day Centre Management Committee.

As well as her council work, she is a member of the Essex Foster Parent Panel and is active in the outreach work for the Free Church.



Fran has a granddaughter who lives nearby, so she spends a lot of time with her and also enjoys her walks around the village with her dog, Nelson.

TWINNING ACTIVITIES

A very successful Twinning trip was undertaken by Committee members and some partners during the first weekend of December. Our hosts were also generally Rungis Committee members or some keen English-speaking residents. The weather was bitterly cold but the Christmas decorations at Chateau Vaux-le-Vicomte, just outside Rungis, were beautiful.

We hope we can enlist some of our residents to act as hosts for their committee and residents when they next visit us. Hosting can be as little as providing a bed and a light breakfast – or joining in trips and making lifelong friends. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

BUS ROUTES

The 7/7A Bus service was reinstated on 14 December. You can find a copy of the timetable on the Essex Highways and Parish Council websites.

STANSTED LIBRARY

Essex Library Services write:

Excitement is growing! At the time of writing, Stansted Library was poised to move into new premises. Initially the service will be like the current offer, but new facilities are coming soon, so this is the perfect time to remind you what we can offer. Our online catalogue gives you access to 1.8 million items; not just books, we have CDs, DVDs, and hundreds of e-books and e-audio for all ages. If you can't find the book you need in your local library don't worry, it is easy to request it and have it sent to your local library. Reservations are free if you place them yourself. Have you tried our range of e-magazines and e-comics yet? Choose from top sellers like Hello, popular BBC titles like Good Food, or a comic by Marvel and Disney, all available 24/7. Back issues are available as well. To help you get started with e-magazines, e-books and e-audio take a look at the handy guides on our website www.libraries.essex.gov.uk.

If it is information you need, log on to the Essex Reference Library. There are more than thirty different services available including encyclopaedias, dictionaries, business information and newspapers. We subscribe so you don't have to, and you can be certain that the information is reliable from a trusted source. This extensive range of resources is available on computers in the library, and many of them are also available from your home computer or digital device. Give your child

a great start with their own library card, as sharing books can help them develop speech and language skills, plus it's great fun too! We hold regular Baby and Toddler Rhymetimes when parents and carers can join in the singing and actions, and afterwards stay to chat, join the library and choose books to take home. These sessions are free; no need to book, just turn up and enjoy! Some libraries have Daddy Cool Rhymetimes on Saturdays for under-fives, but of course mums and other carers are welcome too!

You can easily keep up to date with what's new in Essex Library Services. Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook. Sign up for our free monthly e-newsletters to receive the latest information, details of events happening in libraries plus excellent reading ideas, whatever your taste or age. Visit our website and see for yourself the fantastic range of services your library card gives you access to. Best news of all - they are completely free of charge! Essex Libraries will have staff in The Mountfitchet Exchange as below:

Tuesday	9.00am - 1.00pm
Wednesday	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	2.00pm - 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am - 5.00pm

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Alan Dean writes:

And so, into a new decade. The Roaring Twenties again? They last led to the 1930s; a decade whose repeating would be most unwelcome. Yet, once again, there is significant uncertainty about our national future, just as the future for Uttlesford district and its council remains unclear. By the time Link drops through letterboxes, we may at last know whether the Local Plan has been given a green light by planning inspectors. As September became October and turned to November, we were promised an answer. Then a General Election became the latest excuse for procrastination. I daren't predict the reason if there is yet another delay! Meanwhile, work has continued at UDC to set up delivery boards for the proposed garden communities near the Chesterfords and the Eastons. The boards comprise planners, developers and councillors with the remit to work out the best possible designs for future housing and community needs. The opponents remain active, preferring such alternatives as the restoration of centuries-long-gone hunting forests in-

stead of the bricks and mortar of homes for future local workers and other people wanting a place to live round here. In early 2020, community forums will also be set up, so that present and future residents can help shape these new places over future decades.

Any new forestry means the planting of trees, and new trees definitely are needed; probably not as an alternative to new homes, but certainly as one of many ways of offsetting our nett carbon emissions. December's council meeting approved the council's second motion on the climate emergency in just under five months. The July declaration of a climate emergency sadly hasn't yet resulted in any action to reduce local carbon emissions. There isn't, so far, even a plan of future actions. Not good! So, in December councillors put forward an outline plan that includes planting a tree per resident in the next year and 10,000 trees each year thereafter. The motion called for new planning policy to require one tree per bedroom to be planted for each new build property in the district, with at least two trees to be planted to replace any tree which cannot be retained. Well, that would have been fine, but trees cost money for saplings and for land. That's where uncertainty came into the debate. The majority council group refused to commit to putting any money into the next year's budget to make this and other things happen. They hope that central government will dole out grants for tree planting; a hope that takes us back to my first paragraph on uncertainty. Do we have a new national government that is firmer in its commitment to real action on the climate emergency than UDC yet appears to have? Having listened to Greta Thunberg and Sir David Attenborough on Radio 4's *Today* on the very day I wrote this piece, I have to be optimistic, like Sir David, that generations younger than mine will take the view that an emergency requires real, cool action rather than dreamlike, warm words.

Of course, everything ends up in a discussion about money. The council continues to borrow to invest in science parks, student accommodation and shopping/leisure centres to replace the vital income lost through cuts in central government grants. That's a high-risk financial initiative made necessary by the political avoidance of direct taxation. Only time will tell whether the uncertainty this brings will have been a wise move or a foolish wheeze to hide the true cost of public services.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Your District Councillors will be holding the joint Stansted South and Stansted North Surgeries in The Mount-fitchet Exchange 10.00am-12.00 noon on:

- Friday 24th January
- Friday 28th February
- Friday 27th March
- Friday 24th April

You don't need to make an appointment, so if you have any issues with District Council services please come along and speak to your councillors in person. If you can't make the designated times please contact them using the contact details on page 22.

DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings start at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated

February

19 Open Spaces

26 Full Council

March

4 Highways 7.00 pm

Finance and General Purposes 8.00pm

11 Full Council

18 Annual Parish Meeting

CONTACT DETAILS

Clerk - Ruth Clifford

Assistant to the Parish Clerk - Trevor Lloyd

Administration Assistant - Emma Philbrick

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 813214 Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9.00am-4.00pm,
Wed 9.00am-1.00pm

Website: www.stansted.net

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Geoffrey SELL	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Ray GOODING	813103 cldr.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
Non-emergency 101 The Community Policing Team has its own email address which is monitored daily:
braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

www.stanstednhw.org.uk

PARISH PUBLIC TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Valerie Trundle 813433 Joy Thomas 813871

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - SIGNPOSTS

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

It is easy to take for granted the helpful signposts to be found at many of our road junctions, yet they are part of our culture and heritage. Early road signs were erected by cycling and later, motoring organisations as ordinary people began to enjoy the freedom afforded by ownership of a bicycle or motor car. Standards for signage on main roads were redefined in the 1960s to satisfy faster traffic and night visibility. Fingerposts that indicate direction and distance from rural junctions are frequently much older and can merit further investigation.

Ken McDonald, Secretary Tel: 813226



Fingerposts, with arms pointing in several directions, are white with black lettering, and generally made of wood or iron. Many local examples, some almost 100 years old, were made of iron at Maldon Iron Works.



My favourites include this fingerpost at Matching Green indicating the mileage to London - precisely 26 1/4, and another one north of High Roding that points to Takeley Station which closed 60 years ago.



On the B1039 between Chrishall and Great Chishill, a finger points to a non-existent Great Chishill.



This Henham sign shows the way, not only to local villages, but also to the pub, the Ugley Chequers.



Some signs have information on the back, albeit hidden from view. This signpost points to Broxted and Bps Stortford, but the back reveals that it has been recycled and once pointed to Wimbish Green.



As you travel along the lanes, please take a look at our humble, ancient fingerposts, especially where new signposts have been placed alongside the original ones, as in this picture taken at Clanver End, Wendens Ambo.



CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN

This year Churches Together in Stansted wanted to try something different that took the Christmas message outside to everyone. Organising an outdoor event in mid-winter could be deemed either optimistic or foolhardy! However, trusting that there is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes, we developed the idea of holding an event on Mountfitchet Green that would bring the community together and hopefully create some Christmas magic. We would follow the Christmas story and sing carols with lanterns, under the open skies as darkness fell, and sustain everyone by offering hot chocolate and mulled wine with mince pies and gingerbread!



Fortunately, the heavy rain of the previous days dried up and we had little more than a spot or two. At first it looked like there wouldn't be many people braving the outdoors, but all of a sudden, a crowd of at least 100 people had gathered! A band of hardy musicians, organised by Ros Page, accompanied the singing as the group moved between four stations representing key parts of the Nativity Story. Each station was beautifully illustrated with art work created especially for the event by the U3A Art Group and the whole event dominated by a 6-foot Angel Gabriel created by Carole Crosby!



At each station a character from the story appeared to give a very brief outline of the story and a carol was sung by everyone. Finally, we all gathered for the refreshments - hot chocolate with marshmallows proving to be very popular, as did the offer of a free cup of mulled-wine given to a few surprised dog walkers! The event had a great atmosphere and hopefully will now go from strength to strength and become a fixed part of the village Christmas celebrations.

Rev'd Helen Flack
Assistant Curate, St John's Church
Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com



COFFEE WITH COPS

Come and meet your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) on **Wednesday 19th February** 10.00am-noon at *The Place on the Hill*, in the foyer of Stansted Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. This is your opportunity to feedback any concerns about living in the village. If I cannot help you I will be able to point you to other agencies who can help.

Nikki Morris
Email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stansted.windmill.co.uk

Our Christmas event at the mill was again very popular; we had visits from 70 children who were all happy with their gifts from Father Christmas and the balloons they received from Twisto, the ever-popular balloon artist. Adults enjoyed the tour of the mill which meant of course they saw Santa's Grotto, which was a splendid sight, different from previous years, and our thanks go to Richard for designing and constructing it again.

Our AGM is on **Wednesday 25th March** 7.30pm for 8.00pm at the Day Centre. I hope that you will all be able to attend and maybe some of you will volunteer to become stewards! The date for our Spring Coffee Morning is **Wednesday 8th April** 10.00am-noon at the Day Centre.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

TAKING STOCK FOR YOUR PETS

www.mercerandhughes.co.uk

Now may be a good time to take stock of general preventative healthcare for your pet. Are vaccinations and pet insurance up to date, have you wormed it recently, and does the microchip show the correct name, address and telephone number? I had a client who cancelled her cat's insurance as she had not claimed for five years, then her cat was knocked over by a car and she had a bill of several hundred pounds! Microchips are really useful. Before they became compulsory for dogs, we used to take in a lot of strays and there was often no means of identifying them. They ended up being taken to local rescue centres, held for seven days and then rehomed. When more dogs were chipped, it was lovely that we could get the owner's details and rehome them straightaway. However, we now have a new phenomenon; dog comes in, we ring the number and it is unobtainable or the person answering no longer has the dog so it has to go to a rescue centre and wait for the owner to find it. There is a growing call for cats to have compulsory microchips too. What a relief that would be.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons

STANSTED EVENING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Christmas has not quite gone away as we need to report on things that happened in December: our monthly meeting and the two trees we displayed in St Mary's Church for the Christmas tree festival. Members helped to make the origami triangles which decorated one of them; the other tree was decorated with items made by our Craft Group, which meets on the second and last Friday of the month in the Day Centre at 2.30pm. Non-WI members are very welcome to join us - a mix of knitting, sewing, talking and laughter!



At the December meeting, Linda Smith spoke about her travels, many of them in the Far East whilst working for a charity delivering aid to these countries. She was enthralled by all the hats that she saw worn by people in these areas and started to collect them. Sometimes travelling alone, she had some scary adventures, including being thought to be drug-smuggling when taking medication into Mexico. Most of the hats she brought for us to see were hand-made and very beautiful, although people there must have much smaller heads than us! Linda now volunteers with the charity *Felsted Aid* which distributes clothing, bedding, toiletries, toys etc to Ukraine, which was affected by the Chernobyl disaster. She was such an enthusiastic and fun speaker and enjoyed judging our Christmas Hat competition, which we had to make ourselves and wear.

There will be a special *Green Heart Coffee Morning* on **Wednesday 12th February** 10.00am-noon in the Day Centre; please come and show love and concern about the climate crisis. We welcome visitors or new members to any of our meetings; we meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Day Centre at 7.30pm.

On **13th February** we have a talk from a representative of Daniel Robinson and Sons *The role of a Funeral Director* - should be very interesting!

A trip to see *9 to 5 The Musical* is arranged for February, and to Ely Cathedral to see the *Crown and Gowns Exhibition* in March. We are also looking forward to celebrating the formation of our Institute which was 60 years ago in October, as we still have three members who were part of that first meeting!



Judy Colliver
Tel 812470



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

The December meeting was a fun evening, followed by our annual bring and share Christmas supper. Back by popular demand was the beetle game. A sedate start, whilst newcomers learnt the rules, quickly changed to frantic throwing of dice followed by cheers as a six was finally thrown. The groans grew louder as *beetle* was called, sometimes before another player had even started! A good evening was had by all. The next few meetings are:

5th February *The very best 50 trees for small places* by Paul Harrison

4th March *Summer Sizzlers - a Visual Feast of Hot Colours* by Nick Dobson

1st April Mini Spring Show and AGM

Club meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at the Day Centre 7.30pm for 8.00pm. Refreshments are available prior to the talk. Visitors are always very welcome.

Maralyn Harris
Tel: 07919 478144

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

On behalf of the village a big thank you to everyone involved with the village Christmas tree at the bottom of Chapel Hill. As you can see from the photo, the Stansted Santas visited and raised funds for their chosen charity. We hope that everyone enjoyed seeing it and would like this to become an annual event, with the tree going up for longer next year as we will be able to plan earlier.



Special thanks to D Honour and Son, Uppercut Trees, Mike Hayton from Belcom Cables and Fintan Lambe for all their contributions in physically making it happen; also to everyone else who contributed their hard-earned money, too many to mention individually.

Patsy Banks
Dog and Duck

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We had our Christmas lunch at Linden House in December and all enjoyed the good food and service. The purpose of the forum is to support and promote our local businesses. We will be publishing our directory that gives our members and local businesses the chance to tell you about what they can offer you. We also support local business through our maps initiative. This is where we print the map of Stansted and indicate where our local businesses are. These maps are then circulated around Stansted, including the railway station, which enables residents and visitors to access and use our local businesses wherever possible. The forum is also a member of the Stansted Twinning committee; Stansted has twinned with Rungis which is near Paris. Our local schools, including Birchanger Primary and Forest Hall are members of the forum. Teachers have been linking up with teachers in schools in Rungis. This gives children in Stansted and in Rungis the opportunity to exchange letters and promote both French and English. In order to promote links with Rungis, the twinning committee will be holding a wine tasting evening on **Friday 21st February** at 7.30pm in the new Parish Council offices. Tickets are £25, available from the Parish Council.

We are also pleased to announce that Human Roots will be the forum's charity of the year. Keiran Leigh Olivier, shown in action below, says that their aim is to inspire our community to value our planet, while fostering a healthy relationship with our food and one another. They aim to educate Stansted's young and old about the importance of gathering, growing and changing the community footprint.



Our next breakfast meeting will be on **Friday 7th February** at 7.00am at Linden House so please contact Peter James on 813318 or email: peter.james@murdochsestateagents.co.uk to book your place.



Iris Evans

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

3. Salsa 7. Banana 8. Barium 9. Range 11. Diwali
12. Trendy 13. Last man standing 14. School 16. Agreed
17. Idyll 18. Etched 19. U-boats 20. Opium.

Down

1. Vatican City 2. Catastrophe 3. Sari 4. Abet
5. Friend or foe 6. Sudden death 10. Nursery 15. Lido
16. Alum

Happy new year all; you are all looking at the newest *Charity of the Year* for the Stansted Business Forum! The thing to look out for on the allotment this month is our very own poly tunnel. I am very proud of having put it up with the help of two friends. We will be growing all sorts of exotic fruits and greens in the coming winter. I would like to send out a special thank you to Ed Howley from *Furniture Designs* for donating bespoke shelving and labour to enable the poly tunnel and shed to be fully functional. Human Roots will be working closely with the Stansted Food Bank and Spangles Family Hub in providing members of the community with fresh vegetables. Most of what we will be growing will be going back into the community to help locals have access to fresh produce. If you would like to know how to get involved please contact me. We have also teamed up with Stansted Airport in delivering our aims to be fully accessible. The head of their engineering team, John Hackett, and his team of volunteers will be helping me build our wheelchair accessible pathways and raised boxes. Thank you Stansted Airport. I would like to invite members of the community to volunteer on the allotment, from spring onwards. I cannot do this alone and need your help. Please check out www.facebook.com/humanrootsstansted for an updated events plan. No experience needed. You can also find us on Instagram. Like, share and get involved today.

Kieran Leigh Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk



BUYING WINES ONLINE

Are you ever daunted by the choice of wines on our supermarket shelves and for the lack of time you have to browse? No wonder that many of us plump for our favourite wines. Online retailers offer a vast selection of wines to suit all budgets, tastes and preferences. They are able to offer a larger more diverse range, better information and excellent deals, all at the click of a button. Some supermarkets also sell small quantities of specialist stock only online. Aldi, for example have their *Classic Icons* range with free delivery for a mixed case of six. I liked their 2018 La Finca Toro Loco from Spain at £11, a gloriously fresh and fruity red wine and their lighter 2015 Roversi Barberesco from Italy with cherry, plum and smoky flavours. *Decanter* scored it as 93 out of 100. Similarly, you can order the Majestic range of WIGIG (when it's gone it's gone) wines to ensure you secure limited ranges before they disappear from their shelves with free delivery as part of a mixed six bottle case. Other wine merchants may be impractical to visit but have a great online service. Favourites are *Great Western Wines*, *The Wine Society* (£40 life membership), *Slurp* and *Laithwaites*. Despite the benefits of online buying I will always still enjoy the prospect of handling bottles or even tasting the wines before purchase; visits to local wine merchants like Majestic, who have not gone completely online, will always be welcome. Finally, a plug for the French Wine Tasting in aid of the Stansted twinning with Rungis which I am helping run with the Parish Council, which is on **Friday 21st February** (see opposite). Do come and enjoy some wines with us.



Paul Wilkinson
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Why Change Is Difficult



- 1 We are creatures of habit. It is in our blueprint Our brains work on prediction. The brain predicts the nice feelings that follow a nice biscuit
- 2 To change the predictive map you need to change association; link biscuits with diabetes
- 3 Everything we do, we do for a subconscious reason that makes change effortful
- 4 The analogy is the elephant and the handler. If the elephant is happy, it will work as directed by its handler; if the elephant is unhappy, the handler will have almost no control over the elephant
- 5 The unconscious, or old brain, is like the elephant. The conscious brain, particularly the frontal lobes, is the handler
- 6 To successfully lose weight, give up habits like drinking, gambling or smoking, improve your posture; to get rid of chronic pain, you must address your elephant and make it happy!
- 7 The old brain is the automatic stuff: eye movements, body movements, breathing, posture, hunger, digestion, mood, desire etc. The articles I write are almost always aimed at improving the old brain, so doing any of these exercises aids change
- 8 When you are in the process of changing a habit, this is controlled by the frontal lobes and takes a lot of effort from them. You need to feed your brain to give it energy. All goes well until we are hungry, tired, and stressed; the elephant is out of control
- 9 To feed the brain it needs fuel, breathing and activation. Fuel is good food – usually food you have cooked yourself. Breathing is good breathing; breathe without your shoulders rising at all
- 10 Activation is actually movement, which is problematic if you're trying to get into the exercise habit! Any movement helps, and if that really is not possible, try a decent breathing drill instead
- 11 I believe there is no such thing as willpower. Relying on willpower alone is doomed to failure and beating yourself up after a failure is unhelpful. Much better to get curious: how do I make my elephant happy?

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Trainer
Tel: 07802 872919

COMBATING LONELINESS

www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk

'All the lonely people, where do they all come from?' So sang the Beatles in their haunting 1966 ballad of *Eleanor Rigby*. Fifty-four years later, loneliness is perhaps more of a societal problem than ever before. Modern life has much to recommend it, but in its wake comes divorce, breakup of families, bereavement, retirement, ill health, old age and a myriad of other situations that can trigger feelings of loneliness. Paradoxically, loneliness is not the same as being alone. Many people live happy and contented lives in solitary bliss, while others experience the empty feelings that come with this isolating condition, even in a crowd of people. Nor are young people exempt; loneliness can impact anyone whatever their age. Loneliness is debilitating, has a real impact on our wellbeing, and can lead to mental health problems.

So what can be done to help? There is no magic wand, of course, but we can all watch out for family, friends and neighbours who may have experienced a devastating event. A phone call or an invitation for a cuppa are ways we can show that someone cares. There are also organisations, clubs and societies that help through social activities, befriending, phone calls, drop-ins and outings; however, trying to track down what is available is not always easy. **Uttlesford Frontline** has details about organisations such as **Essex Befrienders**, **Age UK** who offer one-to-one and telephone befriending, and **REAL Friends** who provide support to young people enduring bullying. Frontline is the brainchild of Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau and lists almost 200 local organisations that can provide help, advice and information on a wide range of health and wellbeing issues. Each service listed provides full contact details, fact sheets and a call back option. You can find details by calling 0300 500 1895 or visiting our website.

Janet Elsey
Administrator
Email: admin@frontlineuk.org.uk

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www.birchangerwoodtrust.org

Protecting native woodlands is crucial in the fight against climate change; we are very fortunate to have an ancient woodland on our doorstep. The wood's management trust was originally set up to end encroachment by housing and preserve it as *green lungs* in an area dominated by the M11 motorway and an international airport. The wood can only be properly managed with the help of volunteers and support from the community. Over recent months, residents have bought our seasoned firewood, while Stort Valley Rotary Club and Premier Court Care Home in Thorley have kindly donated funds to help maintain and improve the woodland. Yet, nothing could happen without our volunteers, led by warden Pat Forrest, whose name suits his lifelong commitment to environmental conservation. Every Saturday during the coppice season, the volunteers are coppicing trees - a sustainable way of managing trees, which regrow and provide the firewood that funds our operations.



We are always in need of more team members and would warmly welcome people who are prepared to be hands-on. If you are interested in conservation volunteering, even just an hour or two on a Saturday, please go to the compound next to the water tower on Heath Row, Bishop's Stortford. Local ecologist and science educator Jono Forgham has been documenting all the species in the wood. He is calling for community involvement in a year-long study of the wood and its natural history by recording the tree species, birds, mammals, insects, arachnids, plants and fungi. He will be visiting two to three times a week, with moth trap nights on a weekly basis, and would like anyone who is interested to join him. If you would like to be involved please email: jforgham@hotmail.com or text 07805 571551.



Daniel Brett
Secretary

Email: danielbrettdotcom@gmail.com



www.stansted10k.org.uk

This year's Stansted 10k Fun Run is on Sunday 7th June. Registration is now open via our website; and don't forget to like our Facebook page. This year we are supporting St Clare Hospice, Grove Cottage, The Huw Johnson Club and St Margaret's Mental Health Unit. It is a great excuse to start getting fit, so don't delay, register today!

Clair Rava

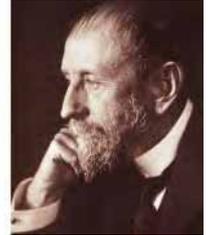
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HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest/

As we settle into the new decade, the National Trust is celebrating 125 years of looking after natural and historic places for the nation. The trust was founded in 1895 by Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley, shown below.



Hill, born in Wisbech, was a social campaigner, philanthropist and leading force behind the development of social housing. Hunter was a lawyer who helped ensure the protection of open spaces, including many commons in London and Epping Forest. Rawnsley was based in the Lake District and campaigned to protect the countryside there. His literary connections included Beatrix Potter, whose former home is now owned by the National Trust. They were motivated by the increase in industrialisation, fearing industry was in danger of gobbling up green spaces, so vital for our wellbeing.



Fast-forward 125 years and we are grappling with similar challenges. Nature is being driven into crisis and green space could be a distant prospect for the next generation. The vision that our founders had seems particularly prescient now. Looking ahead, we must also consider how we as individuals can look after these special places. At Hatfield Forest the wet winter weather has taken its muddy toll. We urge visitors to save their visits for the summer when the ground is better able to cope with heavy footfall. If you do visit this month, please stay on hard standing paths to give the ground time to recover.

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RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/storvalley/events

Our next talk is on **Tuesday 11th February 7.30pm** at Bishops Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford (next to Tesco). Gary Prescott aka *The Biking Birder* talks about the birds seen, RSPB reserves visited, people met and the many incidents encountered. He says, "May I modestly say that I am one of the world's most famous Green Birders? Green Birding is where one tries to reduce one's carbon footprint when enjoying the world's best hobby, birdwatching, mainly by restricting one's use of fossil fuel transport modes." In 2018, he completed his fourth adventure in the saddle. Three years of biking birding adventures around the whole of the UK in the years 2010, 2015 and 2016, was followed by six months of 2018 cycling and pack rafting in Peru! In 2010 and 2015 he cycled to every RSPB and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) nature reserve in the UK.



Our next walk on **Saturday 22nd February** will be at Waterford Heath Nature Park run by The Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. It is a former sand and gravel quarry, which has a wonderfully varied range of habitats. In the autumn and winter, fieldfares and redwing are regular visitors. Meet at the park, Vicarage Lane, Waterford, Hertford SG14 3LU at 10.00am. Donations to local group welcome. For more information call 07454 801894 or email: l.jaques@yahoo.co.uk.

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We look forward to hearing from you!



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The fabulous Stansted Mountfitchet U3A Strummers were the entertainers at our December meeting held in the beautiful festively decorated home of our president Dorothy Wallace, where members and guests from other institutes in our group enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the hard-working members of the Committee. The lunch was not the only thing our members enjoyed - we also enjoyed a surprise visit from Cinderella who entertained us in great style and before departing, handed out a beautifully wrapped gift to everyone! A magical way to end our 2019 programme and a lovely start to the festive season. The speaker at our next meeting will be Margaret Rogers who will be taking us on an illustrated trip to Ireland. Why not come along to Ugley Village Hall on **Wednesday 19th February** at 2.15pm and meet her? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Being the last meeting before Christmas, there was a different format to our December meeting; instead of a speaker, we had a *Society Quiz*. Peter Brown welcomed us, and we were treated to a glass of delicious mulled wine and a selection of treats including mince pies (I was assured these were low calorie, of course). Many thanks to all those who prepared and served this indulgence. We organised ourselves into tables of approximately eight people. The quiz was divided into six categories, the first of which was prepared and introduced by John Scraggs and the second by Roger Barrett. After explaining the marathon *Trivia Paper* (30 questions to be completed during the evening), John began his *photo quiz* of local landmarks which we all pass frequently; it really is amazing how you often ignore what is in front of your eyes! The next category was *Cars of the 50s and 60s*. This brought back memories of leaking windcreens, damp carpets, cars that would not start, frozen radiators and petrol at 2/6d a gallon. The next category was *Advert Labels*, small areas of well known adverts usually seen in their entirety, followed by *Bridges*; photos of various bridges, but what are their names and where are they located? Finally, *2019*: a quiz on things, events and people during the last year. The completed answers were scrutinised by our un-biased (so he says anyway) scorer Doug Stephenson and, apparently, according to Doug it was a very close finish (although I still believe my team won!). It was a great evening and our thanks once again go to John, Roger, Doug and of course Peter for all their hard work.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 6th February 8.00pm** in the Day Centre, when Richard Till will be talking about *The Cutlers of Thaxted*. All welcome; visitors £2.00.

Ed Taub
Tel: 816932
Email: taub8jr@btinternet.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

The disappointment was etched on everyone's faces when due to the horrendous wet weather before Christmas we were forced to cancel two very lucrative home league games. The ground staff worked extremely hard to make the pitch playable but mother nature won out on the day. Keith Handley, our fixtures secretary, had a busy time trying to rearrange fixtures and avoid any financial sanctions as the League have deadlines set to complete the games. Fortunately, the team are able to complete their weekly training but are having to travel to North Weald, the only available 3G pitch in our area, highlighting the lack of local facilities. Our vets team have been able to complete some of their home fixtures at Birchanger Social Club and we are grateful to them for helping us out at this time. Despite the difficulties, both teams have had great wins on the pitch which have pushed them up into the top half of their respective leagues; the challenge will now be to maintain these performances as we enter the last third of our playing season. Below are our fixtures for February; again the weather may play a part so please keep an eye out on our social media sites for the latest Club news.

1 st West Essex	ESL Prem Division KO 3.00pm
8 th Saffron Walden	ESL Prem Division KO 3.00pm
11 th Takeley	ESL Prem Division KO 7.45pm
22 nd Southend Manor	ESL Prem Division KO 3.00pm



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

From a Local Supporter

This year started strongly with a 5-1 win in the local derby match against Sawbridgeworth on 4th January - the local side's eighth successive win. In a superb first half, Hammond scored a brace, team stalwart Jack Mitchell powered in a penalty and Cheema slotted in a goal, giving the home side the lead. In the second half, sharp-minded keeper George Marsh saw off all but one attempt by Sawbridgeworth to turn the game around and Ryan 'Rambo' Ramsey, assisted by Siddik, brought the goal tally to five.



While Stansted may be unable to top the soaring performance of *YouTube* media sensation Hashtag United, it is still a team that is a pleasure to watch and follow.



Daniel Brett



Stansted Tennis Club

Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Membership

New members are always welcome; please download a membership form from our website. There are four Club sessions a week and there are many Club tournaments held throughout the year. We also have several teams in the Essex Small Clubs League. Non-members are welcome to come up to three times a year as a visitor (£2 per visit).

Junior Coaching

The junior coaching programme with Ollie Toms, open to members and non-members, continues this term. Please email: juniocoaching@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk or call 07818 093992.

Ladies' night

Monday 10th February from 6.30pm (members only).

AGM

Thursday 27th February (venue tbc) all welcome. Please contact a member of the Committee for further details.

Used tennis balls

£1 for a tube of four from Jan Hollis. Please call 812073 or email: janhollis@btinternet.com.

Fiona Kelly
Publicity Officer
Tel: 07949 623484

Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The year 2020 could be a momentous one for us all. A new decade with Boris Johnson at the helm, Brexit on the way, a new local cricket league, and cricket coming back to Molehill Green. The Club is looking forward to participating in the new Herts and Essex Border League, sponsored by Tees, which hopefully will encourage more cricketers to play the game at all levels. Work on the Molehill Green pavilion has begun and the building will be renovated both inside and out. Indoor nets start in early February for the senior section at HECC *The Herts and Essex Cricket Centre*. If you fancy a Thursday evening out please contact me. Frances Mckinlay and Ed Stabb have had successful trials during the winter months and we hope that they can both continue to enjoy and improve their cricket.

Our *General Knowledge Quiz* is on **22nd February** 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Bishop's Stortford College. Tickets: adults £14, under 18s £9, to include fish/chicken/veggie and chip supper. Please contact me if you want to test your knowledge and support the club! If you want to join our Club I would encourage you to take a look at our website. We coach young cricketers from the age of 5 years both girls and boys. Summer is not too far away!

David Brown
Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com





Stansted Cricket Club

At our AGM on 11th November, the following officers were elected: Ben Baker (Captain 1st XI), Huw Edwards (Vice-Captain 1st XI, David Powter (Captain 2nd XI) and Duncan Taylor (Vice-captain 2nd XI). The main officers (Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary) are unchanged. Work continues on defining the constitution, rules and structure of the new Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL). Thirty-six teams (including Stansted 1st XI) have signed up to play in HEBL in 2020. Stansted 2nd XI will play 14 matches in an 8-team CCA Junior League Division 4 South along with Abington III, Balsham, Barley II, Buntingford II, Elmdon II, Linton Village II, and Steeple Morden. Winter nets start on Tuesday 4th February 8.00pm-9.00pm at HECC Sport Cricket Centre, Tharbies Farm, Rook End, High Wych, Sawbridgeworth CM21 0LL. Two lanes have been booked, so there's plenty of opportunity for both batting and bowling. The booking runs for 10 Tuesdays, ending on 7th April. You can contact the Club by email at stanstedcc@gmail.com and follow it at www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com or on Facebook at Stansted Cricket Club or Twitter at @StanstedCC. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the Club (eg by a large banner displayed at the ground) please contact our sponsorship manager, Huw Edwards, by email: huwr_edwards@hotmail.com. The Club would like to invite anyone interested in scoring next season on a regular basis to contact me. Adult players wishing to join the Club should contact me; juniors should contact Head Coach Keith Ayres on 814471.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

Firmly entrenched in the close season with no outdoor bowling taking place between October and April, work still continues all year round on the preparation of the playing area. It requires constant attention to ensure the squirrels don't bury too many nuts, the birds don't dig holes to get the worms, and the worms don't build too many mud pyramids. There are weeds to keep at bay and the gardens to keep neat and tidy; so much to do. This is better than having an allotment, except we don't get any carrots and onions! As a small club we are always trying to encourage new members to join our friendly organisation, so if you haven't made a New Year's resolution yet, don't delay, join up and get out in the fresh air. The social side continues every Friday evening from 8.00pm and there are other activities you could get involved in during the week; come along and find out more. We are still running our offer of **one year's full membership**, which allows you to take part in Club matches and competitions and full use of our discounted licenced bar, **for just £10.00**. Happy Bowling!

Peter Beattie
Hon Secretary
Tel: 07850 329192
Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Positive News

They may have been necessitated following an unfortunate accident, but the smart new wall, seat and notice board in Lower Street have greatly enhanced the area, as shown in the photograph below taken by Ray Woodcock.



This made me think about other instances of good results from not so good beginnings - like the threatened closure of our library this time last year. Hopefully the library will have moved into the new Mountfitchet Exchange by the time you receive this issue of The Link; a building that was plagued with many problems and setbacks, but finally used by residents when it opened its doors to voters in the December election (see page 19). The building should now be fully operational as library, parish council offices and community hub and a great asset to the village. It is also fantastic that after so many years of disuse the old Three Colts pub on the Cambridge Road is being renovated; and didn't the hanging baskets and floral arrangements around the village throughout 2019 look amazing yet again? Also amazing was your response to an appeal Helpline issued in The Link for more volunteer drivers so that the service could continue. Many offers of help were gratefully received and Helpline's team of drivers has increased sufficiently for it to carry on assisting residents with their transport needs. It is the willingness of locals to play an active part in their community that makes Stansted such a great and caring place to live. So, to all our unpaid volunteers - a huge thank you for giving up your time to help others; it is much appreciated.



Lastly thanks also to whoever decorated the bus stop on the Cambridge Road with tinsel, shown above. It made what was sometimes a very long wait for buses during the period leading up to Christmas, a bit more bearable.



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Nature Notes



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Daisies are our silver, buttercups our gold:
This is all the treasure we can have or hold.
*Jan Struther**

Daisy *Bellis perennis* also known as *day's eye* and *bruisewort*

It is said that summer has arrived when one can put a foot on seven daisies. In warmer winters they continue to flourish right through the year, so the old adage might no longer apply. The name means the *eye of the day*, as it opens only during the hours of light, and will not open on very dull days. The term *bruisewort* gives its use as a folk medicine. When treating bruises today it is fashionable to purchase Arnica, which is not related to the daisy, but has similar qualities. The crushed leaves of the daisy can be applied to wounds to help healing. Herbalists make daisy tincture to purify the blood, thus helping treat skin diseases and boils; it is also used for coughs, catarrh, arthritis and rheumatism.



Not so long ago daisies provided entertainment for the young. The making of daisy chains kept girls occupied for hours. The daisy was used as an oracle to ascertain their love interests while picking off one petal after another until they were left with the answer to "he loves me, he loves me not". This could raise or dash the hopes of the lovelorn. There was always an abundance of daisies in the old days, one didn't have to move far to gather them. The daisy is one of the many plants that are being scientifically investigated as a potential treatment for a whole host of medical conditions.

**Jan Struther 1901-1953 wrote many hymns including Lord of all Hopefulness, and as a writer she created the character Mrs Miniver, which was later made into a film.*

Bee's Daughter

ROSEMARY WALTERS

Rosemary sadly passed away on 31 December aged 88 years. Reunited with her husband Stanley, she will be greatly missed by all her loving family and friends. The funeral was on 22nd January.

D C Poulton and Sons
on behalf of the Family

Children get the Festive Feeling

A group of children and their families from our Special Needs Nursery, weekend clubs and school holiday clubs got into the festive spirit with a Christmas party organised by Debra Barton, who wanted to provide a party where the whole family could just be themselves and not feel any pressure, and where parents could engage with each other. After food and a disco, the children visited Santa's Grotto. It can be difficult to take a child who has additional needs to see Father Christmas, but here the children were able to spend as much or as little time in the grotto as they wanted.



Grove Cottage has been providing social and educational activities to people of all ages with a learning disability for over 50 years. If you know someone who could benefit from our services please contact us.

Christmas Tree Recycling Raises Record Amount

A staggering 215 trees were recycled, raising over £1,600. Thanks go to everyone who brought their tree along, the volunteer helpers on the day, and East Herts Council for their support. A massive thank you goes to Steve Bland and the team from The Tree Management Company (TTMC) who gave up their time and machinery for free. This is the fourth year that we have worked together with East Herts Council and TTMC on this project and the funds raised have increased year on year which is fantastic!



With a donation to Grove Cottage given with every tree that is recycled, we will be able to continue to give support to people with disabilities, their families and carers.

Rosie Wren
Tel: 656085

Email: info@mencapgrovecottage.org

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Air Training Corps 494 Squadron	Tel: 681559/661929 Email: 494@aircadets.org	St John's Road and Area Association	Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 812348 Email: vcl.essexwest- uttlesfordadminhub@nhs.net
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Nic Devine Email: kinglouie.huskies@gmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
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Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office Tel: 656085	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btintetnet.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	U3A	Ray Smith Tel: 813270
History Society	Peter Brown Tel: 812816	W I Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 461270 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	W I (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Millers (Windmill) music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768 Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk		
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	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Roberts Tel: 078648 21905		
Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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