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Front cover:
Charlie Pig
by Paul Burt Photography



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CONTENTS

Advertising	Index to Advertisers	40	Local Events	Coffee with Cops	4
	Link Advertising	34		Lent Groups	15
Churches	CAMEO	15		Tech Tidy	7
	Friends of St Mary's	17		What's on in March	5
	Stansted Family Church	15	Health & Wellbeing	Brain Training	11
	Stansted Free Church	14		Friends of Stansted Surgery	11
	Stansted Quaker Meeting	15		Ladies Keep Fit	17
	St John's 300 club	13		St Clare's Bereavement Café	11
	St John's Church	14	Fundraising	Winter Fuel Payment	31
	St Theresa's Catholic Church	15		Accuro Floristry Workshop	25
	Thought for the month	14		Grove Cottage ABBA Tribute	27
	World Day of Prayer	13		Henham Fun Run	29
Children and Families	Bentfield School	27	Local Roundup	Recycle Ink, Stamps & Dental	37
	Birchanger School	25		B S and District Footpaths	37
	Buffy Playbus	35		Broome End Care Home	13
	Daisy May's Farm	4		Hatfield Forest	29
	Forest Hall School	24		Hundred Parishes	17
	Magna Carta School	24		Jam Jars Wanted	7
	Manuden Primary School	33		Litter Picking	7
	Messy Church	13		Shoeboxes	13
	Stansted Scouts	25		Stansted Windmill	9
	St Mary's School Eggstravaganza	24	Features	Stop Stansted Expansion	31
Clubs and Community Groups	Directory of Clubs & Organisations	39		A Historical Misadventure	7
	Grove Cottage Volunteer Recruitment	37		Editorial	4
	Human Roots	2		French Wines	33
	Huw Johnson Club	9		Goodbye!	25
	Mountfitchet Garden Club	3		Meet the Link Team	17
	Stansted Evening W I	3		My Journey to South America	23
	Stansted is Well Read	9	Sports	Nature Notes	31
	Stansted Local History Society	2		Random Jottings	33
	Stansted U3A	2		Stansted Brewery	29
	Stort Valley Rotary	9		Stansted Bowls Club	35
	Stort Valley RSPB	3		Stansted Cricket Club	35
	The Place on the Hill	3		Stansted Football Club	34
	Town Twinning	4		Stansted Hall Cricket Club	34
	Ugley W I	31	The Arts	Amici Cantate	33
Local Council News	Stansted Network	19-22		Music@stansted	34
				Rhodes Complex	27

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 March for the April issue or by hand/post by noon on 7th March to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk

Things are getting busier and busier for us. At the time of writing, our wheelchair pathways are being built. I have been inundated with support from local business people helping to deliver this project. Head of engineering at Stansted airport, John Hackett, has kindly put together a team of 15 volunteers to help us dig up, lay and finish our pathways. We will be using environmentally friendly grass mats, which are long lasting, carbon neutral and made from recycled plastic. It has taken me months trying to figure out what the best options are for the users of Human Roots. I have learned about aggregates, laying techniques, sub-layers and dementia awareness on flooring types and legal requirements for wheelchair users.



It is so important that we make the right decisions today that will impact people in the future. I hope that you will come and see us on the allotment with our fancy new grass mats, and feel free to bring your wheelchair. We are officially open for volunteers on Wednesdays and Thursdays 10.00am-2.00pm, so if you have a few hours to spare, pop in and help out; bring warm layers, water and waterproof boots. Children are welcome.



Kieran Leigh Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Peter Sanders chaired the first meeting of 2020 and he introduced four members who spoke on a diverse range of subjects. Tony Crosby spoke on a little-known industrial unit 'The Stortford Lime Works' which was based in Farnham Road. The works started in the 1890s and closed in the 1960s. Ralph Phillips gave us a comprehensive review of the life and subsequent torture and death by burning at the stake of the martyr, Anne Askew. Edmund Wilkinson talked about Stansted Brewery which started around 1872 (see separate article on page 29). The business closed in 1925 and its properties sold, including The Ash at Burton End,

which was sold for £725. Peter Webb gave an amusing illustrated review of Stansted school life in his day in comparison to his grandchildren's experience of primary school today. In his school there were outside toilets, milk at break times and paper school reports.

You might be surprised to learn that between 1360-1430 there was a thriving cutlery industry in Thaxted. This was the fascinating talk given by our guest speaker Richard Till, at our February meeting. The term cutlery is slightly misleading and in reality, it was the production of knives and daggers. Thaxted had a good road network which enabled the movement of iron ore in and the completed cutlery out for distribution. Men and women commonly carried knives at this time. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 5th March** at 8.00pm in the Day Centre, when Terry Ward is our speaker.

Edward Taub

Tel: 816932

Email: taub8jr@btinternet.com

Stansted Mountfitchet U3A 10th Anniversary 2019-20



www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

It was a cold and misty morning in January when Tony Wellings and the walking group set off for Bishop's Stortford in order to return to Stansted via the towpath, then through the Town Park and the Country Park. Tony is very knowledgeable on wild-life, but he did not discover a new species of hedgehog but an old discarded broom. Just what he needed, as you can see by the beam on his face.



We have had a meeting for new members with tea and some lovely home-made cakes and hope to make these a regular feature during the year. Two other new groups have also started; Book Group 2020 which will meet on the first Tuesday of the month and a Pilates Group which will meet on Thursdays at 12.50pm. The new cribbage group would also welcome some more members. They meet at the Day Centre on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2.00pm. Further details of these groups can be found on the website or call 07874 385541. At our next seminar on **Saturday 14th March** Neil Faulkner will be presenting *The History of the World in a Morning* (minus the boring bits). Tickets can be ordered and paid for on our website. On **Saturday 9th May** we will be having a special 10th Anniversary Quiz and Supper. Put this in your diary now, more details to come later. The speaker at our next meeting on **Thursday 19th March** 1.30pm for 2.00pm at St John's Hall will be a local historian, Kate Cole, a genealogist and author who will speak on *The Witches of Elizabethan Essex*. Tony - bring your broom!

Eileen Quinn

Tel: 07874 385541

STANSTED EVENING WI



Fakes and Forgeries was the title of Tim Turner's talk in January. Tim is an auctioneer and valuer at Sworders. He took us back to the 16th century in Europe, when people were starting to collect things to show their prosperity. Portraits were very popular, particularly Rembrandt, whose assistants would have learnt to paint in his style. Strangely, Rembrandt was forgotten for some time after his death; but by the 18th and 19th century his work had become so popular that some paintings done by his assistants were passed off as his by dealers. Recently, when paintings could be analysed, many were found not to be by Rembrandt at all. A research project found that only 220 paintings of the 700 attributed to Rembrandt in 1925 were genuine. The one hanging in your dining-room probably is not a Rembrandt original! Tim had some fascinating stories of people trying to pass off fake pieces purporting to have been in their family for many years or bought at a house sale. One such item was an alabaster casting of which there are only two known worldwide. This caused great excitement until the same man with the identical story appeared at another museum and it was investigated thoroughly. The *Antiques Road Shows* have greatly increased the popularity of antique collecting and it is very difficult to get on the programme with your treasured piece. Our competition was for an old toy or game and Tim chose a game called *My Rich American Uncle*, which he had never seen before.



Thirty-three members enjoyed our New Year dinner in January, shown in the photo above. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Day Centre and always welcome visitors or new members. Our speaker for **12th March** is Carol James, giving us a *History of Teddy Bears*; you can bring your favourite one with you!



Judy Colliver



The Place is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except bank holidays) from 9.30am-12.30pm. All ages are welcome, so come along for free refreshments and a chat, and log on to our free wifi. 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).



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

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



Our friendly and informal group meet on the second Tuesday of each month from September to June. We offer a range of illustrated talks and the occasional video show on a range of bird and wildlife topics. Refreshments are available free at the start of the meeting. We hold occasional raffles and book sales, a well-attended social in December and at least one major fundraising event each year. We have put up bird boxes in Bishop's Stortford town park and organised a trail for local schools, and are now involved with reed bed maintenance in the River Stort. If you would like to have fun and meet like-minded people and help make a difference for birds and wildlife, get in touch, or just turn up at a meeting. We will be very pleased to see you.

Our guided bird watching walks, which take place most months, are free except for parking or entry fees and donations. Our field trip co-ordinator takes us to a wide variety of places over the year, near and far. Our next walk on **Sunday 29th March** will be at Kingfisher Bridge Nature Reserve near Wicken Fen. Since 1995 Kingfisher Bridge Reserve has transformed 250 acres of farmland into a variety of wetland habitats and has become a vital sanctuary for numerous endangered species of the Fens. Meet at Bishop's Stortford Causeway Car Park at 9.00am. Donations to the local group are welcome, please contact Lee Jaques on 07454 801894 or email: l.jaques@yahoo.co.uk.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Fifty Small Trees for Small Gardens

In his one acre of garden, located in the Ter Valley near Braintree, our speaker, Paul Harrison, has planted more than 150 small trees over the years, each with a special characteristic: colourful peeling bark, beautiful fragrant flowers, unusual seed pods, variegated foliage and trees that change with the seasons. Birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and the arrival of grandchildren have all been celebrated with the planting of a new tree. He explained that there are over 23,000 tree species globally, but only about 20 are indigenous to the UK; however, 5,000 species from all over the world can be grown here. The photographic tour of his garden showed the variety of small trees that can grow quite happily in a small garden, either as a specimen tree or for privacy along boundaries or for shade. A list of trees shown as well as recommended specialist tree nurseries was given to members, as many of the trees shown are not found in garden centres.

The next meeting is **Wednesday 4th March 7.30pm** for 8.00pm at the Day Centre: *Summer Sizzlers – a visual feast*. Nick Dobson, our speaker, will be looking at some of the flowers and fruits with hot colours that brighten up the summer months. Refreshments are available prior to the meeting, and visitors are always welcome. The cost to visitors is £3.

Maralyn Harris, Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144



EDITORIAL



Our cover girl this month is one of our local characters called Charlie; she used to share the field with her pal Delilah, but the latter died a few weeks ago, sadly. Charlie is a type of New Zealand pig called KuneKune, which is Maori for 'fat and round'. Everyone who walks by the pig field is intrigued by such an unusual pig, especially young children. If you take a photo which you think would be suitable as a front cover, please do send it, plus a brief description, to editor@stanstedlink.org.uk. This should be a portrait orientation.

As mentioned last month, we are starting our travel section this month; my recent tour of Argentina and Chile is summarised on p 23. I do hope that you will feel like sharing your journeys with us by sending an article and pictures to the email address above. Another new item this month is the introduction to the members of The Link team. I do not know if you are aware of this, but the team consists of volunteers; when I first saw the magazine, I visualised a team of people in an office in the middle of Stansted, but that is not the case. We work from home; the first half of any month is always very busy for all of us on the team. Then the printing company takes over around 17th of the month, and we all breathe a sigh of relief and cross our fingers that all will be well. Mike Dyer is being featured this week, on p 17; he is Chairman of The Link.

In the Parish pages (19-22) you will see that the Chairman's report covers items of great interest to our community, including the decision by Uttlesford District Council not to approve Stansted airport expansion. We hope you will support the Parish Council's AGM on Wednesday 18th March at 8.00pm in the Day Centre.

TOWN TWINNING

Stansted and Rungis

For those of us who have a long-term love affair with France, a partnership between Stansted and a town across the Channel seems very fitting and long overdue. After almost 18 months of our Town-Twinning Association, we are starting to establish bonds with our friends in Rungis, to build solid links between us, to appreciate our cultural differences, and to make lasting friendships. It is very much a case of hands across the channel and a *bise* on each cheek!

In December six of us travelled to Rungis to see the Christmas Market, attend a buffet supper, and visit Vaux-le-Vicomte, a castle 55 kilometres southeast of Paris. The castle was lit up with coloured lights, snow scenes and moving models. In the evening we were invited to dinner with the Maire. Does all this not whet your appetite? Any Stansted residents can go on a visit to Rungis. This year, from 21st to 24th May, our Rungis friends are visiting us. We plan a reception for their arrival, trips to Cambridge and London and a dinner. The French make wonderful hosts and it would be very good if we could reciprocate. We would welcome a call or an email from anyone in the village who would be willing to offer bed and breakfast, and/or participate in any activities by acting as driver or escort on a visit. Contact me or email: geraldineallars@gmail.com to express an interest. Carpe that Diem!! Our committee is launching a French Culture Club on **Friday 20th March** 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. You are guaranteed a French atmosphere, French music and a French film.

Liz Johnson
Tel: 816426

Email: lizocjohnson@gmail.com

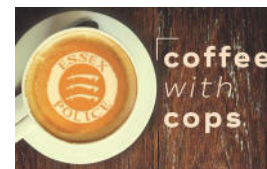


DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

On the farm everything is starting to wake up to the fact that spring is just around the corner (fingers crossed!) and to celebrate, we are getting ready for our fantastic **Spring Event on Sunday 29th March** 11.00am-3.00pm. Entry is only £3 which includes entry to the farm, meeting, feeding and grooming the animals, chick cuddling, craft activities and more. For a little extra you can also have fun on the bouncy castle, ride on the ponies, get made up by the face painters, have some scrummy food from the barbeque or Snack Shack and most importantly, have a go on the Spring Treasure Hunt where everybody can win a prize! Make sure you don't miss out on a really special day. These fundraising events are vital so that we can feed and look after our rescued animals, and we can only do this with your support. You can also help by getting involved in our *Spruce it up Sunday* on **Sunday 1st March** from 10.00am. We would love to hear from you, so please call us on 07747 787973 or take a look at our website. Thank you.

Elaine Terry



Come and meet your local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) on **Tuesday 3rd March** at St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane or on **Wednesday 4th March** at *The Place on the Hill*, in the foyer of Stansted Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. Both sessions are 10.00am-noon. 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



LENT GROUPS

8 - 9 pm Wednesdays in March

4th Free Church Hall
11th Quaker Meeting House
18th St John's Church
25th St Theresa's Parish Centre

All welcome - please join us
Sessions led by the Stansted Churches
www.stanstedchurches.com



ABBA TRIBUTE NIGHT

7.30 for 8 pm Fri 6th March

Charis Centre, B Stortford

Tickets £20 incl Hot Buffet

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Cash Bar & Raffle

In aid of Grove Cottage ~ All Welcome



Saturday Seminar

The History of the World in a Morning (minus the boring bits!)

by **Dr Neil Faulkner**

9.30 am - 12.30 pm

Sat 14th March

Stansted Free Church Hall

Tickets £4.50 from

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

3	Tue	Coffee with Cops Stansted is Well Read	St Theresa's 10 am - noon Dog and Duck 8 pm
4	Wed	Coffee with Cops	Free Church Foyer 10 am - noon
4/11/18/25		Lent Groups	Various Churches (see above) 8 - 9 pm
4	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
5	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
6	Fri	Business Forum	Linden House 7 am
		World Day of Prayer	Free Church 2 pm
		ABBA Tribute Night	Charis Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
9	Mon	Link copy due in today	before 12 noon
10	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
12	Thu	Stansted WI	Day Centre 7.30 pm
14	Sat	U3A Seminar	Free Church Hall 9.30 am
15	Sun	Messy Church	St Mary's School 3.30 - 5 pm
17	Tue	CAMEO	Day Centre 7 pm
18	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
		Annual Parish Meeting	Day Centre 8 pm
19	Thu	Stansted U3A	St John's Hall 1.30 - 4 pm
19 Thu - 21 Sat		Water Lane Theatre Co	Rhodes Centre (see below for times)
20	Fri	French Culture Club	Mountfitchet Exchange 7.30 pm
21	Sat	Farmer's Market	Ugley Village hall 10 am - noon
		Volunteer at Grove Cottage	Charis Centre 1.30 pm
24	Tue	Hearing Help	Day Centre 2 - 4 pm
25	Wed	Windmill AGM	Day Centre 7.30 for 8 pm
28	Sat	Music@stansted	St John's Church 7.30 pm
		Amici Cantate	Leaside Church, Ware 7 pm
29	Sun	Family Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
		Spring Fun Day	Daisy May's Farm 11 am - 3 pm
		Eggstravaganza	St Mary's School 11 am - 4 pm



Stansted Messy Church

3.30 - 5 pm Sun 15th March

St Mary's School, Hampton Rd

Activities ~ Celebration ~ Food

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themed Craft Activities

All Ages Welcome

www.stanstedchurches.com



Annual Parish Meeting

8 pm Wed 18th March

Day Centre, Chapel Hill

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All welcome

More information tel 813214



SPRING FARM FUN DAY

11 am - 3 pm Sun 29th March
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Entry £3 includes meeting and feeding
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Bouncy Castle and Face Painting
(small additional charge)

Tel 07747 787973
www.daisymaysfarm.org



St Mary's School PTFA EGGSTRAVAGANZA

11 am - 4 pm Sun 29th March
starting at the school

**Find the eggs hidden around
Forest Hall Park**

Tickets £3 in advance from
www.pta-events.co.uk/stmarysstanstedptfa
or £3.50 on the day



And Then There Were None

7.30 pm Thu 19th & Fri 20th March

3 pm & 7.30 pm Sat 21st March

The Rhodes Arts Complex

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Sat Matinee £12

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www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk



7.30 pm Sat 28th March
St John's Church

Charlie Lovell-Jones Violin
David Palmer Piano

Adults £15, conc £12, under 18s free
from Absolute Travel Stansted,
Nockolds B S, Sonia Levy 815282
or on the door

www.musicatstansted.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

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

10 am - noon

Sat 21st March

Ugley Village Hall

Meat ~ Fish ~ Eggs ~ Honey

Cheese ~ Cakes ~ Plants

Fresh Pasta ~ Bread

Cards ~ Ceramics ~ Fruit & Veg

Skincare ~ Knitting & Needlework

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 8-9pm every Monday



At the Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet.
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 Please wear loose clothing and bring an exercise mat.

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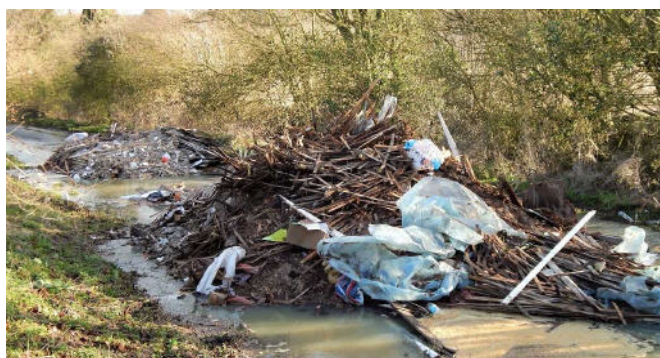
Castle Dental, Castle Maltings, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8XG

LITTER PICKING

Litter picking in Stansted is far from boring! The sheer variety of odd findings we collect keeps us more than amused. We have picked for over a year now on a weekly basis and each week brings its own surprises. We pick up the usual crisp packets, cans, sweet wrappers, cigarette packets and vodka bottles but some items leave us completely baffled! Such as the ancient Barbour jacket prised from underneath a mound of earth, a light switch found in a bush with the nearest house being a 10 minute walk away, scented candles in ornate glass bottles, individual pieces of a decorative chandelier and the most baffling of them all, the unforgettable, full catheter bag lying peacefully amongst the leaves.

We continually ask ourselves: Who left this here? Why is it here? Is this ever going to stop? As sociable and amusing doing these picks are, they can be quite upsetting. It takes a great deal of discipline to 'switch off' and not get angry with the continual large amounts we collect every week. However, as long as society is as disrespectful to nature as so many people are, someone has to do it; and besides, there is no greater feeling than knowing you have helped make your local environment just that little bit better. If you would like to help out then come along to the Mountfitchet Exchange on Sundays at 10.00am. The Council fully support our group so all the equipment is provided for us. Just don't wear your best clothes as you'll never know what you will find! Contact me to find out more.

Jennifer Bone
Tel: 07989 048177



This photo was taken by Ray Woodcock in January of a fly-tipping crime in Pennington Lane. This has cost Uttlesford District Council £3,000 to clear up. It beggars belief how revolting some people can be. Ed

JAM JARS WANTED

Having just made an enormous amount of marmalade I need to re-stock on empty jars ready for jam making in the summer. Thank you to everyone who has given jars in the past; please continue to leave them on my doorstep. It is a great way of recycling and much appreciated. Thank you.



Sandra Ayres
49 St John's Road
Tel: 814471



UNITED IN KIND – TECH TIDY

www.westsexcan.org

I work for West Essex Community Action Network as a *United in Kind Coach* in Uttlesford. My role includes:

Acts of Kindness - spreading acts of kindness, such as a recent mental wellness talk

Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness - is identifying socially isolated and lonely people, listening to their needs, supporting, empowering and signposting to agencies

Working with Communities - if an organisation, group of people or individual would like to set up a group, I will support and empower them to achieve their goal

Community Champions – volunteers within the community who will also help to tackle social isolation and loneliness.

March is **Tidy Month** and to promote Acts of Kindness, we are holding a free **Tech Tidy** event on **Tuesday 24th March** 1.30pm-3.30pm in the Mountfitchet Exchange. The room has been kindly donated by Stansted Parish Council. If you have any questions regarding your laptop, iphone or ipad please come along, feel free to bring them with you, and join us for a cup of tea/coffee at the same time. This event is open to all. For further details please contact me.

Kim Clark
Tel: 07849 087991
Email: kim.clark@westsexcan.org

A HISTORICAL MISADVENTURE

When I was reading the excellent biography of William Wilberforce by William Hague, I came across an interesting titbit: William Wilberforce had visited Stansted for a holiday in 1817. As Hague writes, 'On 9 October 1817, Wilberforce was able to write to Zachary Macaulay from Stansted in Essex, where he was taking his autumn sojourn' (p.436). As a fan of the great William Wilberforce I was excited to hear that he had been in our village! I wanted to know where he had stayed and thought it was likely to be one of the big houses in the area such as Stansted Hall. I googled in vain for another mention of William Wilberforce in Stansted Mountfitchet. Then I looked into the owners of the great houses in the area in 1817, hoping to find a connection. Finally, I looked up the source that Hague had used to find the letter from Wilberforce to Macaulay. I thought perhaps there would be some other letters from October 1817 that would shed some more light on the situation. He had cited 'Life IV p.330' as the source. William Wilberforce's sons had written an exhaustive biography of their father which included many letters. The whole book was available scanned online. I found Wilberforce's other letters from October 1817 and alas, it seems William Wilberforce had actually sojourned at Stansted Park in West Sussex with his friend Rev'd Lewis Way. The letter Hague cited was addressed only from 'Stansted' but some surrounding letters were addressed 'Stansted Park' and referenced his friend Mr Way. So, from a little detective work I found out that William Wilberforce did not visit Stansted Mountfitchet or if he did, there is no record of it.

Michelle Wray



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

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STORT VALLEY ROTARY

www.stortvalleyrotary.com

Speaker Programme is Important

As well as their programmes of good works, Stort Valley Rotary meet twice a month at the Coach and Horses for a meal. These meetings are convivial occasions, and we are addressed by speakers on various subjects who keep us updated on issues of interest both locally and in the wider world. For instance, David Lewy, Head of Public Affairs and Partnerships at Stansted Airport, pictured with Gordon Morrison (Stort Valley Rotary President), outlined the progress made since the airport was acquired by Manchester Airport Group (MAG) in 2013. The most interesting and impressive aspect he referred to was the Aerozone Stansted Airport Education Centre which opened in 2015. Training programmes and apprenticeship schemes provide job seekers with the opportunity to learn and gain the necessary skills to enable them to secure employment with one of over 200 on-site employers. David did not have it all his own way as he was questioned on a number of contentious issues.



On another occasion, Professor Darragh Murnane, Principal in Pharmaceuticals of the University of Hertfordshire, spoke of his impressive research project's focus on the understanding of pulmonary therapies. His research involves development of aerosol medications for inhalation therapy. He had our attention by opening with a question – what is an aerosol? The first thing everyone thinks of is a can which you depress. Not the right answer! An aerosol is a suspension of particles dispersed in air and Darragh led us through the little understood complexities of delivering these aerosol drugs to the lungs, nose and mouth/throat cavities. Problems are common due to users delivering aerosol drugs incorrectly. We have a full programme of speakers for the year. If you think you have what it takes and would like to join, contact the Club initially via the website.



Peter Latham
Tel: 507294



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We have an exciting few weeks to look forward to, including arts and crafts, curling, Keep Fit and a disco and party. We had great fun at the *Cinderella* pantomime at the Arts Theatre, with lots of booing and hissing at the baddies! Thank you to all our generous donors who helped fund this

trip so that we did not have to charge our members and helpers. Over 50 members and helpers enjoyed a two-course New Year's Dinner at the Chequers: drinks, crackers and good company. Thanks to the staff who looked after us so well. We collected £502 from the Singing Santas of Stansted after their incredible efforts with carol singing. Thanks to the Santas and their elves for supporting us, and to everyone in the village who donated their spare change.

The Club is a social group for 25+ adults with learning disabilities which meets on Thursday evenings. We are entirely run by volunteers and funded by generous donations. We are always looking for new volunteers: car drivers, bus drivers, escorts and helpers for Thursday evenings; please contact me to find out more. Our AGM is on **Wednesday 22nd April 7.30pm** in the Free Church Hall; please come along to learn more about what we do.



Katharine Collis
Tel: 07759 157620
Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

Preparations are now in progress for this year's Windmill openings. Membership forms will be delivered and the stewards' rota sheet is waiting to be filled. As always, we would dearly like to enlist more helpers for our Open Days. Do come along to our AGM on **Wednesday 25th March 7.30pm** for 8.00pm at the Day Centre to hear about our plans for 2020.

I do hope you will be able to join us for our Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 8th April 10.00am-noon** at the Day Centre, for tea, coffee, hot cross buns, biscuits and squash; entrance fee £2.50. There will be a raffle and the usual stalls for cakes, bric-à-brac and mill goods. If anyone wishes to purchase mill goods or souvenirs, when the mill is not open, just give me a call and I will be happy to supply them. The first Windmill opening will be on **Sunday 5th April**; the mill will also be open the following weekend on Easter Sunday 12th April and Bank Holiday Monday 13th April.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 3rd March** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck in Lower Street, where we will be discussing *The Secrets We Kept* by Lara Prescott. Inspired by the true story of the CIA plot to bring Boris Pasternak's masterpiece *Doctor Zhivago* to worldwide recognition, this is a thrilling tale of secretaries turned spies, of love and duty, and of sacrifice. 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

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING

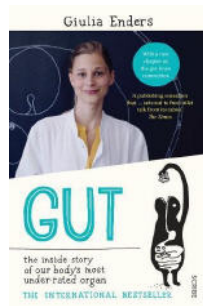
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Gut Health

The two hottest areas of research are the brain and the guts and, increasingly, their link. This is something we have known about for donkey's years, viz: 'I have a gut feeling about this' - 'nerves lead to an attack of the collywobblers' - 'I am sick to death of it'. Now the scientists are studying this so it has to be true! The gut and the brain affect each other; make one happier and the other gets happier too, whichever way round you go. For best results go both ways. One rule I recommend to everybody is: do not get older. A rule we all blithely ignore and discover, as the years roll on, that most things slowly get worse, including how our guts are functioning. Bloating, burping, farting, reflux, guts ache, loose stools, wizened rabbit droppings, cravings, lack of appetite, urgent peeing, IBS, Crohns. A terrific list! What would big pharma profits do without us?

Help is at hand. Apart from me, read the book, Gut, by Giulia Enders. It is funny, very easy to read and has much good advice as well as excellent information. It was published in 2017, but already there is an updated version out, which shows just how fast information is growing. The cranial nerve that connects gut to brain is the vagus nerve, so brain drills like humming, gargling, gagging your grey geese or going for a winter swim in the village pond will help (the latter I have not the guts enough to try). Together, let us make Stansted the village of the svelte.



Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919

FRIENDS OF STANSTED SURGERY

I write as the chair of Stansted Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG). A sub group, Friends of Stansted Surgery (FSS) has been set up to raise funds to aid the purchase of additional equipment not necessarily provided by the NHS England. The surgery receives no extra funding from the NHS to update outdated equipment. Currently we are seeking to fund the purchase of a hospital quality pulse oximeter, which costs £950. This is a convenient hand-held device which can deliver accurate and reliable arterial oxygen saturation levels. It is effective during patient movement and therefore particularly beneficial for use on babies and young children. The surgery's current pulse oximeter does not have this benefit of accurate readings in very small children. We believe that the medical staff and the local community will all benefit from the purchase of this new and up-to-date equipment.

We have already raised £350, but still need another £600, and therefore I am asking you to consider making a donation to this worthwhile local cause. Cheques should be

made out to *Friends of Stansted Surgery* and either sent to me at 2 Greenfields, Stansted CM24 8AH or to the surgery. Thank you.

Janice McDonald
Tel: 813226



ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Our Bereavement Cafés

Since early 2019, we have established seven Bereavement Cafés throughout the local area. They run on a regular basis and are open to all local people living in West Essex and East Hertfordshire who have experienced bereavement, no matter how long ago. The cafés offer a place to meet and connect with other people who have had similar experiences to our own and are free to attend. The atmosphere is very relaxed and informal, just like a real café, with hot drinks and refreshments. Do check our website to find your nearest café, or contact Community Engagement Manager, Sally Muylders. tel: 773709 or email sally.muylders@stclarehospice.org.uk.



New Weekly Coffee Shop

We are opening our doors to the public by launching a coffee shop, open every Friday 9.30am-noon at the Hospice in Hastingwood CM17 9JX. Café Clare is open to everyone in West Essex and East Hertfordshire to visit for tea, coffee and continental breakfast. People can drop into the café any time during the morning. All proceeds go to the Hospice.

Monthly Lifestyle and Wellbeing Workshops

We have launched a series of free monthly lifestyle and wellbeing workshops, called *Last Thursday Sessions* hosted on the last Thursday of every month at 2.00pm in the Hospice. The workshops are open to all people in West Essex and East Hertfordshire. The next session is on **Thursday 26th March** 2.00pm-4.00pm, and will focus on *Mindfulness and Relaxation* by Rose Morris. If you would like to host one of our Thursday sessions, please contact Sally Muylders as above.

Emma Sugarman
Senior Communications Officer

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STANSTED MESSY CHURCH

www.stanstedchurches.com/messychurch



At our February session, the theme was *God always Listens*. There were a variety of craft activities to explore, but the favourite was definitely making water bombs!



Our next event is on **Sunday 15th March** 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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On **Friday 6th March** the churches in Stansted will be joining with 120 countries and islands around the world in the annual wave of prayer which encircles the globe, starting at sunrise in Samoa and ending 36 hours later back in the Pacific at American Samoa. Our service, which has been written this year by women in Zimbabwe, will be starting at 2.00pm in Stansted Free Church. The theme is 'Rise! Take your mat and walk.' It used to be called the *Women's World Day of Prayer*. Now the word 'women' has been dropped, so it really is open to everyone who would like to attend. There will be refreshments after the service.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the January draw:

£100 No 59 Karen Coulthard
£50 No 137 Matthew Jessup
£25 No 242 Edmund Wilkinson

The March draw will be held on 29th in St. John's Church following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2.00 each per month are available for anyone who would like to be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away each year. The Club raises vital money towards the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062

SHOEBOXES UPDATE



You might like to know that 64,061 Christmas boxes were packed in the UK and distributed by Teams4U. **Where did they go?** Orphanages and poor communities in Belarus, displaced groups in Bosnia, marginalised communities in Romania, and for the first time to Moldova and Uganda. **What difference do they make?** Log on to www.teams4u.com and watch the video of children opening their boxes. Then remember that 64,000 children experienced the joy of opening a box, and you will see what an impact they have. In the words of Teams4U "It's so much more than simply a box containing a few material goods. Each box is an expression of kindness and compassion that says to the child: 'You matter, I care'. Thank you for reaching out and speaking to the hearts of children, through a shoe-box, across Eastern Europe and Uganda!"

Catherine, Eileen and Helen

BROOME END CARE HOME

The award-winning care home, Broome End, has been acquired by Curaa Group Ltd, a family-owned business with a core focus on emphasising compassion in seamless person-centred care provision in the community. The 120-year-old former manor house has been purchased with all staff being retained. We are delighted to have acquired a care home with dedicated staff who have been serving the residents with compassion and care: a true fit with our company's values. We aim to maintain this high standard of living and further enhance services at Broome End. We look forward to working with the excellent management team already in place.



Broome End is in a four-acre plot surrounded by a wonderfully serene outdoor space. This includes a large terrace overlooking meadows, and a south facing state-of-the-art sensory garden, both maintained to a very high standard. The home caters for 35 residents in 29 single rooms, 28 of which have ensuite facilities, and three twin rooms. With resident engagement a priority, the excellent activities team arrange trips out, visiting speakers and musicians, one-to-one sessions and various other activities chosen by the residents. Our team are from a variety of backgrounds, and we share a passion to provide a healthy, meaningful and independent lifestyle for our residents, enabling them to live life to the full.

Haris Khan
Managing Director Curaa Group Ltd

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Prayer, meditation, musing, however you wish to describe it, is how we engage with and nurture our inner self. Hopefully, our prayer will also influence our outer daily life too. Meditation may be practised within a particular religious tradition, but it need not. A particular tradition might suggest a pattern of prayer to us like meditation on a passage from the Bible, sitting in silent expectation waiting for illumination, or the use of beads and we will choose to follow it. Some of us may wish to see meditation as connecting with a divine being, while others of us may wish to leave it more open. Prayer at the individual level is a matter of personal preference. There are as many ways of praying as there are people who pray. My own style of personal prayer has changed through the years as I myself have changed.

None of us are experts at prayer. Stephen Hough, the classical pianist, wrote a book on prayer; not from the point of his own expertise, but out of his own desire to pray (he is a practising Roman Catholic). He goes on to say that the point of prayer is not that we get good at it, but that we go on trying to pray. "Trying to pray is itself prayer." I find that encouraging. Many religious traditions have specific seasons for prayer. Muslims keep Ramadan; Christians keep Lent in the weeks leading up to Easter. Lent fills all this month. Maybe we can all use this as a prompt, religious or not, to reflect upon our own desire to pray, meditate or muse.



Roy Fowler
Minister, Stansted Free Church



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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 March

1st 10.30am Mike Dyer - New Directions
8th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
15th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
22nd 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - Communion
29th 10.30am Rev'd Caroline Vodden



All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Tel: 815243
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
Email: kewest@btinternet.com

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

Church Hall Bookings: Barbora Dragoskova
Tel: (with answerphone): 81524
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com

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

January

Baptism

19th Oliver Richard Wilkie

Funerals

22nd Rosemary Walters - at St Mary's followed by burial in the churchyard
28th Ethelwyn Joyce Dennison - at Cam Valley Crematorium



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

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

We have two different formats in March: **Crossroads** takes a break while we run the **Alpha Course** on Mondays; and **The Vine** Bible-study, modern worship music and prayer most likely to be of interest to Christians, meets on **Tuesdays 3rd, 17th and 31st March** at 7.30pm. Venues may vary, so please get in touch if you are planning to come or if you would like more information. Visitors are always welcome and you do not have to be a member of a church. 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 join us? If you have a prayer request or would like to join a prayer walk, please contact us.

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.



Ros and Howard Page

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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

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

Confessions
Every day for half an hour before each Mass

Baptism By appointment

Fr John Garrett, former parish priest of St Theresa's Church, died on Wednesday 12th February after a long illness. May he rest in peace. There will be an obituary in next month's Link. His funeral mass will take place at St Theresa's on Thursday 27th February at 11.00am.

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

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

Meeting Sundays 10.30am

Light Group 2nd Saturday of each month 10.30am-noon.
(Guided At a Quaker Light Group a guided meditation
Meditation) takes place known as 'Experiment with Light'. The process can on occasion enable one to go deeply within oneself, to discover helpful insights. When practised within the group, friends can provide each other with spiritual support when needed. All welcome. Contact Sue on 771405.



CAMEO (Come and Meet Each Other)

Our group is open to all and meets at 7.00pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Day Centre. The cost is £1 per session and includes an evening topic, and fellowship over tea/coffee and biscuits to finish. On 21st January we had a Burns night celebration complete with music, poems, kilts, haggis, neeps and tatties; a lovely fellowship meal was shared amongst the members, all finished off with yummy homemade shortbread. On **Tuesday 17th March**, we will be sharing in a cultural celebration, learning about the Passover and its history, with a few items to sample. Bishop's Stortford Salvation Army also meets each Sunday morning at 10.30am in the Markwell Pavilion, Castle Gardens, Bishop's Stortford and you would be welcome to join us for our Sunday service. We hope to see you soon.



Captain Megan Kervin
Tel: 507464
Email: megan.kervin@salvationarmy.org.uk

LENT GROUPS



The Lent groups, which are organised by Churches Together in Stansted, are for everyone, not just for people who are connected with a church. This year's groups cover different aspects of Lent from the viewpoint of the various churches. Why not join us? They are all on Wednesdays 8.00pm-9.00pm:

4th March at Stansted Free Church: a talk and discussion on *Grace in the Wilderness*

11th March at the Quaker Meeting House: a guided discussion entitled *Quaker Testimonies, the Bible and our Lives*

18th March at St John's Church: *Compline and Cocoa* - a reflective service of Night Prayer (Compline) with lots of space for silence and music for reflection. Followed by cocoa.

25th March at St Theresa's Church: a meditation on *The Stations of the Cross*.

Kathy West
Secretary, Churches Together in Stansted
Tel: 816293



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Email: sjane.mitchell@ntlworld.com



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Tel: 01279 814052 Email: ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com



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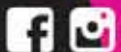
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Deborah Hibbert



M: 07842 125503 H: 01279 647309

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Christmas Festival

There are so many people to thank for their time and energy given to our festival: special thanks go to Keith, the Committee and everyone who exhibited so beautifully, the Stansted Mountfitchet Strummers, Anne, St John's choir and Rev'd Paul for an amazing afternoon of Carols. It takes much forward planning to bring about this annual event and we desperately need more people. Please contact me if you can help.

A note for your diaries

Our AGM will be on **Friday 1st May** 7.00pm in the Day Centre, followed by the popular quiz evening. Grab your neighbours and friends and make up a quiz team. Fish and chip supper during a half time break, cost £9.00. To order your supper please contact Ray Rogers on 814210 or email rayrogers2@talktalk.net, Orders by 27th April please. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. All are very welcome. This year is the 30th anniversary year of St Mary's being vested with The Churches Conservation Trust and to mark this we will be holding 30 events throughout the year. If you have ideas for events or would like to hold an event in church then please do let me know. Finally - littering around the churchyard and car park areas is getting out of hand. Please put rubbish in bins or take it away with you. Do contact me if you can spare even a little of your time to help keep St Mary's open and welcoming.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474
Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com

MEET THE LINK TEAM

Mike Dyer

As Chairman of The Link I have been asked to kick off a series of profiles of people who make up The Link team. I grew up as a Hampshire Hog in the town of Andover, but have since gradually migrated North East to London for higher education and then to Essex for a career in telecommunications research. More recently I spent six years teaching numeracy to apprentices and other adults. I retired from paid employment in 2010 when my father came to live with us for his final three years. My involvement with The Link goes back to its birth in 1980, when the local Anglican Church was looking for a way to expand the scope and readership of its parish magazine. It was agreed that the new publication should involve all the local churches, so I became one of the Methodist representatives. In those days everything was typewritten as separate 'stories' that had to be literally pasted into position. Those of us involved today are relieved that production uses modern technology, but I still admire the dedication of the volunteers who spend several hours editing and laying out each monthly issue. My role as Chairman is limited to chairing our meetings and acting as a moderator if the occasional enthusiastic contributor needs reminding that the Editor's decision is final!



Mike Dyer

Please take another look at the new polymer £20 banknote, recently issued. It features the British artist J M W Turner (1775-1851) and his painting, *The Fighting Temeraire*. The painting shows HMS Temeraire in 1838, being towed by a steam tug towards a scrapyard at Rotherhithe on the Thames. It was a sad ending for a ship that achieved considerable fame at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The Temeraire was immediately astern of Nelson's flagship, the Victory, and played a major part in the battle, her crew capturing two enemy ships while suffering heavy casualties. The captain of the Temeraire at Trafalgar was Eliab Harvey (1758-1830) from Chigwell in Essex. He shared his time between naval and parliamentary duties. He was later knighted and promoted to the rank of admiral. Sir Eliab's final resting place is in the Hundred Parishes, in the Harvey family crypt beneath St Andrew's Church, Hempstead. The crypt holds the coffins of around 50 members of the extended Harvey family.



An earlier family member was William Harvey (1578-1657), the first doctor to describe the circulation of the blood. His mortal remains are also in Hempstead Church although his body was moved in 1883 by the Royal College of Physicians from the crypt into a large sarcophagus in the chapel above the private crypt. A print of *The Fighting Temeraire* hangs in Saffron Walden in The Temeraire, a Wetherspoons pub whose walls are richly decorated with pictures and information about local history. The £20 note is not the first to have a local connection. The £50 note in circulation from 1994 to 2011 featured Sir John Houblon. Members of his family once owned Hatfield Forest.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

LADIES KEEP FIT FOR THE OVER 50s

Would you like to get fit this year? Do come along and join us. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays 2.20pm-3.20pm in the Free Church Hall. We have an insured instructor and she copes with all abilities. Please call me for more information.



Brenda Ryan
Tel: 812725

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

to be held at

**The Stansted Day Centre, Crafton Green, Chapel Hill,
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex**

On WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2020 at 8.00pm

A G E N D A

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019
- 3 To receive the Parish Council's audited accounts to 31 March 2019
- 4 Financial Report
- 5 Chairman's Report
- 6 To welcome PCSO Nikki Morris
- 7 To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan - Simon Thompson
- 8 To receive a report on Neighbourhood Watch
- 9 Proposed resolutions
- 10 Open Forum

Ruth A Clifford
Clerk to the Council

NOTE

The Parish Meeting may, by law, discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. Such resolutions are not binding upon the Parish Council, but members usually consider them at their next available meeting and consider what action, if any, to take.

Anyone wishing to speak under the Open Forum must state their name and use the microphones provided. Please try not to repeat topics already discussed. The meeting will close at 10pm at the latest.

Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.

CONTACT US: parishcouncil@stansted.net or telephone 01279 813214

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - by Cllr Maureen Caton

We are now fully established in the **Mountfitchet Exchange** - our community hub building. This has been a major achievement, having also battled through an assault course of obstacles, whilst prioritising attention on the routine issues of the Parish. Congratulations especially to our Clerk and the Councillors involved for their fortitude.

Parishioners come in to see the facilities on a daily basis and face to face work via reception has doubled. Likewise, the **Library** has seen an influx of new borrowers and returners. The number of young people visiting the library has increased - using it to work/IT and photocopying. **Rhyme Time** has seen the biggest increase - so much so that an additional session may have to be planned! Thank you to all who supported us to keep and fund our Library - the battle continues to ensure we remain with qualified/experienced/paid staff.

Our **PCSO**, Nikki Morris, is now part of the team and although still without her car, is able to get around the village hot spots. She has a base at the Exchange and she can have a quiet space to meet residents/colleagues etc. to discuss issues confidentially.

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) have also confirmed that £30,000 has been allocated in their budget planning (to be set on February 29th) for a **Community Information Officer** to be available part-time to the Exchange and our community. We await news that the **CAB** have been allocated grant funding for the service they will also operate from the Exchange.

By the time you read this report, our consultation on the future of **Crafton Green House** should be completed and analysis of your responses begun. We are also undertaking a review of the **Day Centre** property, including energy efficiency.

You will be aware of the decision to refuse the **airport planning application** on the grounds of air quality, noise pollution and climate change, which were grounds also cited by the Parish Council. We await Manchester Airport Group's response. Likewise, Inspectors questioned whether the UDC submission of the **Local Plan** was viable, deliverable or sustainable. This makes the completion of our **Neighbourhood Plan** more important - focusing on what and where any development could take place - putting down a clear marker of what would be acceptable before any opportunistic development is foisted upon us. Consultation with the community is expected to take place in early Spring. We are also still seeking a plot of land for use to replace the **Fuller's Almshouses** that were on Church Road.

Parking remains an issue, and impacts on both businesses and parishioners. We continue to work with UDC to try to alleviate this issue. Enforcement Officers continue to respond to issues of illegal parking raised by yourselves and us, especially on Cambridge Road. Grove Hill and Church Road are areas where the Parish Council are in discussion with Essex County Council to review traffic management in particular.

The potential for flooding in Lower Street and Church Road - near the traffic calming measures - continues on the agenda with the Environment Agency. We aim to promote and seek funding for an acceptable **Flood Management Scheme** that would reduce any flooding in Lower Street.

Walpole Meadows and the **Elms Farm** developments are now established in the village and we have set up **community working groups** to help us deliver on their open space schemes. The SUDs and drainage issues on Walpole Meadows have been raised with planners at UDC and we await an outcome. We are looking to replace trees as a result of Ash Dieback on Newman's Plantation, near Foresthall Park, as well as **planting additional trees** in the public open spaces.

We are researching land availability and cost to provide appropriate additional burial plots in the village as **St Mary's Cemetery** is reaching capacity. Discussion on the issue of Woodland Burials will be addressed once this immediate issue is resolved.

The Council has resolved to promote the youth participation in the decisions that affect our community. We are setting up a **Youth Council** to contribute to our discussions and debate, although they will not have voting rights as they have not been elected by the Parish. We are also hoping to promote and strengthen the work of our local **Youth Club**, here in the village, through a new service agreement. Additionally, we are discussing with Essex County Council how we could possibly resource a facility for the **under 13s** to attend a youth club setting in the village.

You will hear from our Chair of Finance that we are increasing the precept by £12.51 per annum on a Band D property to £102.91, which still compares favourably to Dunmow at £148.91, Saffron Walden at £171.51 and Newport at £130.25. The increase this year will enable us to fund the completion of our **Neighbourhood Plan**, additional staff to manage the increasing workload of a growing community, and maintain the infrastructure of our village. The details of the budget plan are alongside this report.

Our paid staff are our strength and we thank them for their commitment to the Parish. Trevor Lloyd will be retiring this year after over 6 years with us. We wish him well and thank him for all the **grant funding** he has managed to secure over the years. I also thank my colleague councillors for their support and commitment to the work of the Parish.

FINANCE REPORT by Cllr John O'Brien

For the uninitiated, the "Precept" is the money we claim from the District Council to pay for services we deliver. Our current policy is to limit precept increases to 2%, (or rate of inflation). Under that policy we should have expected a precept for the 2020/21 fiscal year to be around £306,000 but, unfortunately, in the latter part of this year, a number of issues were identified which could not be financed through our reserves and it became clear that additional funds, (£43,137), would be required through a higher demand on the precept. Thus, at the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 8th January, the Parish Council approved a precept of £349,137 – an increase of 24p/wk, equating to an annual rise on Band D from £90.40 to £102.91, ie. £12.51, (13.84%).

Those elements requiring extra funding are as follows: -

Cemetery – We are almost at capacity – <i>contingency for additional land purchase</i>	£10,000
New Gate for the Recreation Ground – <i>essential work</i>	£ 1,000
Additional staff member to Parish Clerk's team – contingency based on 20hrs/wk <i>(With the new Mountfitchet Exchange there will be a need for cover on the Reception desk and at times cover in the absence of Library staff may be necessary)</i>	£15,000
Unadopted Road Support – to establish an earmarked Reserve <i>(The Parish Council wishes to continue its policy to support residents in road repairs)</i>	£ 2,500
Neighbourhood Plan – contingency to complete its formulation	£ 6,000
Day Centre – windows and doors replacement <i>(lowest quote)</i>	<u>£ 8,637</u>
	<u>Total</u> <u>£43,137</u>

Works neglected by developers were identified in Foresthall Park, including consequences of Ash Dieback in Newman's Plantation. In addition, the provision of an all-weather 'permissible path' at Elms Farm, will amount to a total cost of £25,000. Rather than adding to the precept, it was decided to claim back these costs from the respective S106 funds. *S106 funding is a levy on developers principally for maintenance of green spaces. The Parish Council will need to manage these funds so that, as the funds are depleted, the Council's contributions will increase until eventually taking on the full cost of maintenance.*

The Parish Council has in its accounts two sets of reserves – 'Earmarked' and 'Free' reserves.

The **earmarked reserves** are those which are set aside and locked-in for specific purposes. For example, our street lighting stock is large and obsolete, dating from the 1960s. We are experiencing increasing levels of failure and therefore we have increased the Street Lighting reserve from £2,000 to £10,000. **Free Reserves** are there as a backup against unforeseen emergencies, to bolster earmarked reserves as necessary. These have been depleted somewhat and the Parish Council has set an objective of maintaining these at a level of £100,000. Audit requirements recommend a minimum of 25% of the Precept.

It is anticipated that at the end of this fiscal year there will be an **estimated surplus** in the region of £53,000. The Parish Council has committed itself to repay the £200,000 borrowed from the Foresthall Park Community Fund as soon as possible. £25,000 of this surplus will be the first contribution towards that end. The remaining surplus will be transferred into our free reserves.

The Future

This council is committed to return to its target of 2% (or rate of inflation) annual precept increases and it is hoped we shall achieve this for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. However, there is uncertainty, as Essex County Council has warned that it proposes to devolve certain responsibilities from Essex Highways down to Parish level. These may include repairing potholes and maintaining grass verges etc, yet we expect that any funding transferred for this will be insufficient to cover the full cost.

Copies of the approved budget and the Auditors' Reports can be viewed on the Parish Council's website.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Ayub Khan writes

For too long the spectre of two very big issues has dominated the thoughts of political and executive leadership at Uttlesford District Council (UDC). The New Year has provided an outcome on both:

1) Stansted Airport

At an extraordinary meeting of the full council last year, UDC planning officers were instructed not to issue a planning decision notice for the airport's application until the planning committee had considered the "adequacy" of the proposed section 106 agreements (obligations put on a developer which are attached to a planning permission being approved). As a new council was formed in May 2019, elected councillors also wanted to consider any new "material considerations and/or changes in circumstances" since the 2018 decision had been made. Following extensive work by the planning committee and two days of public hearings, where very powerful submissions were made, the outcome was that the decision was refused on the grounds of noise, air quality and climate change. The committee agreed these were material planning changes since the approval was originally granted.

In my view the decision was the right one. Climate change, noise and air pollution are all things that matter and we need to do all we can to mitigate the impact. This does not mean that we value Stansted Airport any less. They are an important partner and our major employer. In the end, we need a mature relationship and constructive dialogue with the airport owners, Manchester Airport Group (MAG) that provides mutual benefit for Stansted residents, and the district. So what next? MAG may decide to appeal directly to the Secretary of State and seek financial recompense. If this were to happen it would put further strain on the already stretched finances of UDC. I hope that this is not the case but watch this space....

2) The Local Plan

The Uttlesford Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in 2019. This proposed to deliver 18,000 homes and three garden communities by 2033. It set out a vision for the district over the next 15 years that would meet current and future needs of residents. We now know that the Inspectors have severe concerns about the plan. In a letter providing feedback, Inspectors concluded: "We are not persuaded that there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the garden communities... have been justified. We therefore cannot conclude that these fundamental aspects of the plan are sound". They also commented on housing affordability across the district.

The inspectors highlighted the fact that there are, and will be, many people in Uttlesford without their own home or living in unsuitable or inadequate housing, and that this is unlikely to change without some help in the current housing market. This is very disappointing news, and in my view a failure of political leadership. It has taken a number of years and great expense to agree a submission, yet the basis of the needs analysis was found to be flawed. As a consequence, we are now having to revert to an out of date 2005 local plan. This leaves Stansted and the rest of Uttlesford open to more speculative development.

So what happens next? We have two choices. We either withdraw the plan and start again, knowing the risk that this brings, or retain the existing plan and amend it. My preference would be the latter, as this would provide more protection from speculative development. We also have an opportunity to be bold and agree a more coherent spatial strategy. For Stansted, our own neighbourhood plan will need to be agreed quickly to provide a clear local view on any future development.

I am not against house building because as country we need it. In Uttlesford it is said that homes cost more than 12 times the average wage, and local families are being rapidly priced out of the area. We do need more homes but they must be truly affordable and have the right infrastructure to support a changing demographic. I believe there is also an opportunity for UDC to make sound investment by adding to its stock and building new council homes, providing individuals and families with secure tenancies. It's never a dull moment. However, as a group of Stansted district councillors we will continue to ensure that there is a real voice for residents in this part of Uttlesford.

THE MOUNTFITCHET EXCHANGE AND LIBRARY

Parish Council staff are available:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	9.00am - 4.00pm
Wed	9.00am - 1.00pm

Essex Library staff are available:

Tue	9.00am - 1.00pm
Wed	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thu	2.00pm - 6.00pm
Sat	9.30am - 5.00pm

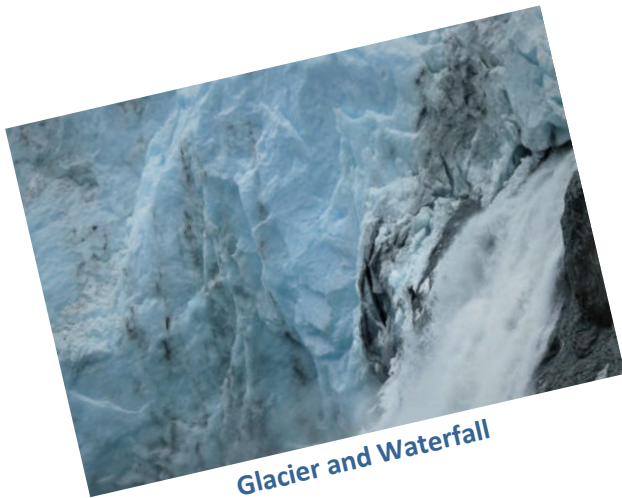


Christopher Rumball was the first person to get books issued after the library moved to its new home.

MY JOURNEY TO SOUTH AMERICA

In mid-December, I headed for **Argentina**: the eighth biggest country, but with only two-thirds of the UK population, with vast uninhabited areas, mostly pampas. It has some beautiful cities, including **Buenos Aires** with its wide and lovely boulevards and enchanting back streets. Estancias (ranches) are commonly found in the country, together with gauchos and countless horses. We travelled south to see the incredible **Perito Moreno Glacier** east of the Andes; what a place to have a picnic!

We embarked on an unforgettable boat journey to Chile through the **Beagle Channel** from **Ushuaia**, the most southerly town in the world. The boat took us to **Cape Horn**, through the **Chilean Fjords**, where we saw some incredible scenery, with a huge variety of glaciers. I had no idea they could vary so much: some with waterfalls, some very actively calving icebergs in dramatic fashion. The journey was really serene and peaceful, very good for the soul. The boat also took us to **Magdalena Island**, with its population of Magellanic penguins; we were lucky enough to see several youngsters. We then went up to spend a few days near the unbelievably glorious **Torres del Paine**. The wildlife everywhere was wonderful, especially the huge **Andean Condor**.



Glacier and Waterfall



Penguin and Chick

Photographs by Elizabeth Oakley



Torres del Paine



Statues on Rapa Nui

A few days in **Santiago** was quite a contrast as the poor Chilean people are rioting against very low salaries; that was a bit hair-raising, with fires in the streets, water cannon and tear gas. Three days in **Rapa Nui** (Easter Island) restored our sanity; this lonely rock in the middle of the Pacific is very mystical and lovely, with its ancient statues of island warriors and royalty. I would highly recommend this part of the world: the countryside is pristine and unforgettable, plus we had such fun: the people are really warm and wonderful and helped to make our trip truly sensational.

Elizabeth Oakley
Tel: 812680



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY

www.magnacartaacademy.org

Young councillors are on a mission to change the world. The first group of school councillors have been appointed in Years 2 and 3. The 1215 Committee has held its first monthly meeting with responsibilities split among the group, including school events, local community, charity, national and world issues. The members put together pitches and were voted in by their classmates in a secret ballot tied in with the General Election. The nine councillors have a working lunch with the Headteacher to discuss their concerns and ideas.



Headteacher Marios Solomonides said: "Our school councillors are already thinking of everything from litter on the streets to plastic in the ocean. Their focus is not on wanting more playtime, it is about the issues facing their local area, the country and the world. This is about them taking ownership of those problems. The children are learning about leading on initiatives such as the charities we support. In future, if the school is approached about fundraising, the requests will be put to the 1215 Committee to take forward. They are also developing their decision-making skills, thinking about the needs of the school and the wider world. This is showing our young people they can make a difference. We are building on their knowledge and understanding of how changes can be made with enough determination. These children are amazing. These are our oldest pupils as we are still a young school. Generally, these roles go to Year 6 pupils, but we are realising even our Reception children are capable of so much more if you challenge them."

Kelly Clark



ST MARY'S SCHOOL - EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

Following the success of last year's Eggstravaganza, join in the fantastic fun of Stansted's biggest Easter egg hunt on Sunday **29th March** 11.00am-4.00pm. Starting at the school on Hampton Road, this quest to find uniquely decorated gigantic eggs hidden around Forest Hall Park, promises to be a delightful afternoon for your whole family. With every egg providing a clue to a puzzle, which you solve along the way, it really is a treat of a trail. Best of all, an eggciting prize awaits every successful egg hunter!

An Eggvent for the Whole Community

As you will remember if you came along last year, the stars of this show are the absolutely stunning eggs. They are being

spectacularly decorated by community groups and businesses across Stansted, with special thanks going to event sponsor Russell Property. We hope to welcome egg hunters of all ages from Stansted and the surrounding area. The theme this year is *Animal Crackers*, so watch out for long pointy ears and curly tails!



An Eggstravaganza and More

Besides the most marvellous egg hunt, there is more to look forward to in the school hall, such as a meet and greet, and a cheeky selfie with Bobtail our fluffy Easter bunny, our bouncing bunnies bouncy castle, seasonal crafts and our Easter kitchen which will be serving hot dogs, hot cross buns, chocolate nests and more; if you are after an Easter cake this year, look no further than our Easter bake-off cake stall. Now all you have to do is take part! Tickets are £3 from www.pta-events.co.uk/stmarysstanstedptfa or buy them on the door for £3.50. The eggstravaganza awaits! Happy hunting!

Catherine Smith



FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

James Ackroyd, owner of Potter Street Fishmongers in Bishop's Stortford, gave students a flavour of life in the fishmongering industry. GCSE food preparation and nutrition students received a masterclass on how to fillet, debone and descale salmon, mackerel and hake. He spoke with students about types of fish, sustainability, food waste and cooking methods, as well as about working in and running a food business. Students got a chance to fillet their own fish during the two workshops.



Linda McCormack, food technology teacher, said: "Our students were given a masterclass with a master fishmonger to develop their cultural capital and to learn about running a food business. These are real-life lessons they would not usually get in the classroom. Filleting a fish is on the curriculum, so it was wonderful for them to be able to learn that skill from someone who does it every day. It is always good to have someone from the outside world to show students the link between those skills and careers. They learnt about how a business is run and how food can take them to so many different places, not just working as a chef. It helped to develop their passion for cooking and food."

Kelly Clark



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

Our Amazing School Garden

We are very fortunate to have extensive grounds which contain a wonderful nature garden. This amazing resource has become very overgrown so most of our children have been unable to go inside it for a number of years. Thanks to the help of *Human Roots* (see p2), we are going to make some big changes to claim our garden back from the brambles and nettles. We hope to replace the current overgrown areas with a range of trees and plants. This will provide our children with learning opportunities and mental health and wellbeing support.



In order to transform this garden, we are going to involve all of our children and we hope that our families will join us for a tree planting at the end of March. The school is receiving 100 trees from the Woodland Trust and planting them will not only help the children to learn but it will help us to secure our Gold Award for this organisation. We are also holding a community day on **Tuesday 28th April 10.00am-4.00pm**, when we are hoping that members of the communities who serve our school will come and help us to add the plants to the cleared beds. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm! We will provide tools and refreshments to keep us all going. It would be wonderful if you could come and join us for an hour or so and be part of this horticultural adventure.

Claire Berry
Headteacher
Tel: 812362



FLORISTRY WORKSHOP

www.accuro.org.uk

Accuro (Care Services) is a local charity providing clubs and services to children, adults and young people with disabilities in Harlow, Uttlesford and Epping. We are hosting a fundraising Floristry Workshop on **Sunday 5th April 11.00am-1.00pm or 2.30pm-4.30pm** at Tocher House, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford. Come along and learn to make a floral arrangement with Amy from Floral Desire. Tickets are £40, (early bird £35 for a limited time), available from Eventbrite or email: fundraising@accuro.org.uk. Refreshments will be provided.

Chloe Salisbury
Communications and Community Fundraising Officer
Tel: 870297



GOODBYE!

www.mercerandhughes.co.uk

So long and thanks for all the fish ... as Douglas Adams said! This will be my last article for The Link on behalf of Mercer and Hughes as I am retiring on 31st March. I shall be re-launching as a holistic vet running my own business in the Lake District later in the year. I have been with M and H since I graduated in 1989 which is unusual; I became a partner in 1992. When I started work, we were a mixed practice and life did seem a bit 'James Herriot' at times, struggling to corner a pig with a couple of hurdles and a bit of old baler twine, running across fields after cows, or running back across fields being chased by cows! However, life did seem simpler and although hard work, thoroughly enjoyable.

Over the years the practice has grown considerably and now consists of four branches and around 60 employees. The time of a partner is often taken up with management issues, so, although incredibly sad to be leaving the only place where I have ever worked as a vet, I shall be happy never having to do another risk assessment or sit down to an inbox full of emails every day. The aspect of the job that has given me consistent satisfaction however is you: the clients and your animals. However stressful the day, it all pales into insignificance when you get to cuddle a puppy or get your ear licked, or someone says "thank you, you made a difference". There are some I shall remember until the end of my days so thank you for a lifetime of memories. It would be lovely to see you if you want to pop in and say goodbye. Wednesdays and Fridays are my usual times at the surgery.



Ilse Pedler
Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



SCOUTS GO KARTING

The Scouts recently booked in to Team Sports in Harlow for an evening of karting. Once the safety briefing was over it was out on the track for the racing. The indoor track is on two levels and they were racing around at speed with the tyres squealing on the boards at every turn.



One of the Scouts was 'black flagged' but we were expecting that! Over the four sessions we had some fast times with everyone doing well. A return visit will be arranged.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 812780
Email: stanstedscouts@hotmail.co.uk

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Earlier this academic year we introduced our new house system. All children from Reception to Year 6 have been divided into the houses of Romans, Normans, Saxons, and Vikings, with Year 6 captains being allocated to each. We are using these houses to run inter-school tournaments and competitions. Last term we held our first event, which was a very successful inter-house football tournament (see photo below); this term we will be having a dodgeball competition. Both of these have been organised by our Year 6 sports ambassadors. Pupils can also win 'house points' for other accomplishments such as academic achievement and progress with learning, positive behaviour, demonstrating good manners, personal development and supporting others, both locally and nationally. The houses aim to give pupils an increased awareness of collaboration, identity, engagement and belonging. It enables them to have some fun group competition whilst creating a smaller community within our larger school community. Pupils will have the opportunity of working alongside teammates from other year groups, which is not only a positive experience for all children, but also gives the opportunity of some of our older students being able to take on leadership roles.

Congratulations to our Key Stage 2 pupils who attended the recent swimming gala at Helena Romanes Leisure Centre. Our Year 3 and 4 teams were awarded the bronze medals and our Year 5 and 6 teams earned the silver medals. We also had great success in the Year 4 indoor athletics event where we finished in first place! The squad will now go on to compete in the finals which features a school from each of the other quadrant areas of Uttlesford. Well done, not only to those who achieved success, but to all our pupils who participated.



David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626



RHODES ARTS COMPLEX MARCH LISTINGS

www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk

At the stage Stortford

Wednesday 4th 7.30pm Live Midweek Music **Alex Veitch Trio**

Friday 6th 7.00pm **If We've Never Been to The Moon?**

Saturday 7th 7.30pm **The History of Rock**

Wednesday 11th 7.30pm, Saturday 14th 2.30pm and 7.30pm
BSMTC Youth presents **Our House**

Thursday 19th and Friday 20th 7.30pm, Saturday 21st 3.00pm
and 7.30pm Water Lane Theatre Co **And Then There Were None**

Friday 27th 7.00pm **Roy Hudd: Comedy Legend Chat Show**
Saturday 28th 7.30pm **Somewhere 2 Sing**

At thescreen Stortford

Monday 2nd 2.00pm **A Hidden Life**

Tuesday 3rd 2.00pm **Guys and Dolls** (Timeless Tuesdays
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Tuesday 24th 7.30pm **Fidelio** ROH Live Encore

At themuseum Stortford

Tuesday 3rd 12.30pm **Take Me Back Tuesday**

Saturday 7th 11.00am **Museum Tour**

Saturday 7th 11.00am **Knit and Natter**

Wednesday 11th 1.30pm **Story Time at the Museum**

Saturday 14th 1.00pm **Fresh Flower Basket Arrangement**

Monday 16th 12.30pm **Lunchtime Lectures**

For tickets call 710200 or visit our website.



ABBA TRIBUTE NIGHT

www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Grove Cottage, the home of Bishop's Stortford Mencap, invites local residents to come dancing on **Friday 6th March** 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Charis Centre, Bishop's Stortford, with top tribute band **ABBA Re-Bjorn**. All the artists are extremely talented, highly professional, full-time performers in their own right. Together, they bring a touch of class to the ABBA tribute band scene as they recreate the iconic and much-loved songs of the legendary Swedish quartet. With their Swedish accents, tight harmonies, high energy performance, replica costumes and audience participation aplenty, you are guaranteed to be dancing the night away. If you recall the late 70s and early 80s, you will remember how the original foursome walked the Eurovision song contest and just kept going. You knew when a new ABBA song was released it would be special and it was. Their creativity was astonishing. Who can forget *Waterloo*, *SOS* and *Dancing Queen*, a killer trio of tunes if ever there was one!



Following our very successful Elvis Tribute Night last year, we wanted to organise another tribute event and we are thrilled that **ABBA Re-Bjorn** have managed to fit us in to their extremely busy schedule of UK performances. It promises to be a fun-filled evening and we are looking forward to celebrating all those ABBA classics, whilst raising much needed funds for local people with learning disabilities. Tickets: £20 which includes a hot buffet meal, available from our website or tel 651908. There will also be a cash bar and a raffle.

Alison Cameron
Fundraising Assistant



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HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

As the days lengthen and we approach the spring equinox, Hatfield Forest is coming back to life after its winter slumbers. The Forest, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve, is the best preserved medieval royal forest in Europe and home to 4000 plus species of wildlife and trees, and a refuge for many rare insects, fungi and wild flowers. One of our volunteers recently discovered a coral fungus, *Marchandiomyces corallinus*, previously unrecorded here. Another sighting this winter has caused a flutter: a flock of hawfinches visiting from colder climates. Globally threatened, the hawfinch is also on the UK conservation Red List. With so many species to look out for, why not take part in some 'citizen science' and record your sightings? You can use www.ispotnature.org to make an identification and then record the details at www.brc.ac.uk/irecord. Hatfield Forest is the second most species-rich property in the whole of the National Trust's ownership, second only to Wicken Fen in Cambridgeshire.



This is the 125th anniversary year of the National Trust and we have launched a special fundraising challenge to get everyone involved to safeguard and protect unique places for future generations. For details of the 125 Challenge please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/fundraise-for-us. The heavy rain has taken its toll on the Forest this winter, leaving some of the pathways very boggy and compacted. Until the ground has recovered, we urge people to stay on our hardstanding paths or save their visits for the warmer summer months.

Helen Hooker and Elizabeth Reeve
Visitor Welcome Team
Tel: 870678



HENHAM 10K AND 3K FUN RUN

www.henham10k.org.uk

Are You Ready for the Challenge?

Check our website with link to entries online or go direct to www.racesonline.uk. All profits go directly to Henham and Ugley School. The run will take place on **Sunday 28th June**. Entry: 3k run £7, 10k run £15, family entry £30 (two adults and up to three children). There will be medals for all runners and trophies for each age category. After the run treat yourself to food, drinks and entertainment at the school fête.

June Brennan
Tel: 850114
Email: alisonjunebrennan@gmail.com

STANSTED BREWERY

In the early 1870s the Brewery operated under the name of Wiffen and Brown, Corn Merchants, Coal Merchants and Brewers. In 1875 William Wiffen died and his son Arthur took over, but was very soon convicted of extensive fraud, resulting in a gaol sentence and the brewery going into administration. The business was purchased in 1876 by S S Rogers and Co, and in 1895 by Dr Thomas Irvine Rowell, trading successfully until 1922; it was then acquired by Randall, Gibbons, Ingold and Co, The Dunmow Brewery, who subsequently closed it down. The properties and tied houses were sold in 1925.

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The brewery was situated half-way up Brewery Lane on the left-hand side, but the grain stores, stables, coal business and offices were in Lower Street, the remaining part of which is now Bear and Eden coffee shop. The brewery manager, Taffy Godfrey, lived in the adjacent company-owned property called The Porch. Bottling was carried out by hand in the cellars of Brewery House in Lower Street. Production did not exceed ten barrels a week. Licensed houses owned were: The Ash at Burton End, Wagon and Horses in Saffron Walden, The Oak at Cutlers Green, Thaxted, and Prince of Wales at Green Tye, Much Hadham and Rickling Green. All properties and brewery assets were auctioned by Swarders on 9th July 1925 and the brewery itself demolished very shortly afterwards.

Edmund Wilkinson
Tel: 814382

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Nature Notes

I went for a walk in the first week of February to see if the mild winter had encouraged the wild daffodils to flower early in Bogs Wood. There was one daffodil in bloom and thousands more in bud, and by the time that you read this they will all be nodding over the woodland floor.



There was much evidence of the presence of badgers and deer – the latter had nibbled many of the young bluebell leaves whilst ignoring the daffodil leaves. There were wild primroses and violets flowering along with other early spring flowers like dog's mercury, daisies, celandines and mayweed. Nearer to Stansted I saw a large number of early purple orchid plants growing which promise to put on a good display soon. Hazel catkins are usually in evidence early in the year in a hard, undeveloped state, but already this year they have opened up and are distributing pollen and the female flowers are just visible, in the form of short crimson bristles protruding from a small bud. In spite of recent rains, the ground was remarkably dry for the time of year and ditches and streams were mostly dry. The climate is obviously changing but nature has seen it all before and will adapt as we can see in a small way how plants adjust to the changing seasons. Whether the human race manages to adapt or not will be a big question.



Felix



Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) has called upon the Manchester Airports Group (MAG) to respect Uttlesford District Council's decision to refuse its latest expansion proposals for Stansted Airport, and has urged MAG not to appeal against the decision. Welcoming the Council's decision, SSE Chairman Peter Sanders said: "I would like to express appreciation and gratitude to the Uttlesford councillors on the planning committee, not only for reaching this decision but also for the very thorough and professional manner in which they have dealt with this planning application". Approval of the planning application would have allowed 43 million passengers a year, making Stansted almost as big as today's Gatwick, with an extra 200 flights a day. (See p.22 for further information regarding the decision.)

SSE Campaign Office
Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com



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www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

You should automatically receive a payment of between £100 and £300 if you were born on or before 5th April 1954 and you get the state pension or social security benefit (not Universal Credit, Housing, Council Tax or Child Benefits). Call the office which pays your benefit by 31st March if you have not yet received it. If you are in the correct age group but do not receive a pension or benefit, you are still eligible but you need to apply. Visit www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment for more information. If you need some help to do this or are worried about how to pay your bills and keep warm this winter, Ali, the Warm Homes Adviser at Uttlesford Citizens Advice (CAB) can help. Call her on 01799 618858 for advice on winter benefits and cold weather payments, the warm home discount scheme, energy efficiency, affordable warm and home improvement grants, switching energy suppliers and the priority services register; or pick up a copy of *Keeping Warm in Uttlesford* from the surgery, Day Centre, library or council offices. If you can do without your winter fuel payment, consider donating it to help others. During the cold weather many older people are faced with the stark choice of fuel or food, and lower temperatures increase the risk of health problems such as heart attacks, strokes and bronchitis. Uttlesford CAB will use donations to help people with heating costs and insulation, understanding what financial help is available and assisting them to manage any fuel-related debts. Donate via our website or call us. Alternatively, if you would like your payment to go to any local people who are struggling to keep warm, you could donate to Sophie's Fund, a small Uttlesford charity that gives grants to people in desperate situations. This can be done online at www.sophiesfund.org.

Jo Hancock
Tel: 01799 618840



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

They say 'Every cloud has a silver lining' and this was certainly true on the day of our January meeting. A dull day was brightened considerably by our speaker Tim Turner of Sworders Auction House, a great raconteur and friend to our Institute. He gave a fascinating talk on the subject of silver, illustrating it with a wonderful array of examples, ranging from card trays to large basting spoons, mugs, a sugar sifter and a beautiful bowl. He gave us a history of the use of silver in its domestic setting and explained that English silver was helpfully identifiable by its hallmarks, which include a date letter, the makers' mark and the mark of the assay office where the item was tested for its silver content. His brilliant talk at an end, he kindly judged our competition for an item of silver, taking the time to comment on each item, the comments themselves proving of great interest too. So ended the first meeting of our centenary year. The next meeting to be held on **Wednesday 18th March** 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall will be members' day. This meeting is conducted by a temporary committee and the subject will be the history of London's Livery companies. Why not come along for the afternoon, you would be most welcome!

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FRENCH WINES

A big thank you to all those who attended the French Wine Tasting I ran last month at the new Mountfitchet Exchange to support our twinning with Rungis. One of the more unusual wines was a 2014 Muscadet white wine from the Wine Society. The most notable wines are those from Muscadet-Sevre et Maine appellation in the Loire Valley and those that say 'sur lie' are left on their lees before bottling, to give an extra complexity. The young and fresh wines have a slightly salty zing and go well with fish and shellfish. There are many 2017/18 supermarket examples at £8-£10 but worth seeking older versions which have more depth of flavour. We also tried a lighter style red from the Loire, a Saumur from Domaine des Ormes 2016 priced £8 from the Co-op in Dunmow. Made from the Cabernet Franc grape, this would be a great summer red and could even be slightly chilled. It had a lovely floral and aromatic smell with good black fruit flavours on the palate and is very good value. For those who like something darker and heavier we tried a Cahors from south west France. This is the spiritual home of the Malbec grape, so loved in Argentina. Good French examples are available at many supermarkets from £8-£13. Waitrose have a £9 Malbec du Clos 2016 made by the respected owners of Clos Triguédina. Cahors was known as the 'black wine'. It can be a bit of a beast so best left open for a couple of hours before diving in. It has lovely balanced fruit flavours of blackberry and spice and great with a dark stew or a steak.



Paul Wilkinson

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Nostalgic Envy

Whenever I hear of people making nostalgic trips back to the homes they grew up in I cannot help feeling a little bit envious because I am unable to do that. Born in the late 1940s, my very happy childhood was spent in a council house on one of the large estates hastily erected in towns and cities all over the country at the end of WWII. Most of the houses in the road where I lived, including my old home, had to be demolished 40 years later after cracks appeared in the walls and they were declared 'structurally unsafe'. On the site of my old home - a three-bedroomed semi with big gardens front and back - is a row of three or four terraced dwellings with tiny pocket-handkerchief sized gardens. My primary school was also knocked down and replaced with housing and although the beautiful old building that housed my secondary school is still there, it is no longer a school but part of an exclusive private housing estate; so difficult to re-visit. But perhaps it is better just having the memories of my home and schools as they were: through rose tinted glasses.

Happy to Chat

It is sad to see 'Happy to Chat Benches' appearing in towns and cities all over the country to tackle the problem of loneliness. I hope we never feel the need to designate any of our public seats in such a way. In my experience the problem is not finding someone to chat to but quite the opposite: a five-minute walk to the shop can take up to 15 minutes with everyone along the way eager to pass the

time of day. If there was an award for the 'Chattiest Place', Stansted would win, and long may that continue.

Loki

MANUDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.manudenprimary.co.uk

The school choir took part in the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena. The spectacular choral celebration involved over 8,000 singers, performing with a host of professional solo singers, musicians and dancers all expertly led by renowned choral conductor David Lawrence. This year, the children from Manuden teamed up with the choir from our sister school, Chrishall Primary, to form one large choir.



The concert included musical highlights such as *Best of the West*, a medley of songs about the American Wild West, a Disney mash up, fusing songs from two different Disney films and a rousing version of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. The *Frightfest* medley, with its *Ghostbusters* theme and *Little Shop of Horrors* ending was a particular hit with children and adults alike. Ruti Olajudbagbe, 2018 winner of The Voice, not only sung beautifully with the massed choir but also gave an empowering speech remembering singing at a Young Voices concert herself aged just eight. At the end we sang the children's own personal favourite, the *Pop Medley*, which included an arrangement of George Ezra's *Shotgun* and the concert ended with a medley of Queen songs. The energetic moves, choreographed by street dancers *Urban Strides*, along with the amazing lighting effects, ensured that the concert was a real spectacle. The children performed brilliantly and made us and their families very proud. The concert provides an invaluable opportunity for our children to take part in a large-scale event with such talented performers and we hope that the children will remember their experience for years to come.

Marnie Tait
Tel: 813379

Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk



SPRING CONCERT

www.amicicantate.org.uk

Let us wrap you in songs of love, life and laughter during our concert *Love is in the Air* on **Saturday 28th March** 7.00pm in Leaside Church, High Street, Ware, conductor James Davey, accompanist Michael Smith; we will be raising money for the church. Tickets: adults £12, under 16s £6, available from 506773, email: tickets@amicicantate.org.uk or go to www.ticketsource.co.uk/amicicantate.

Alison Thompson
Publicity Officer
Tel: 816188 or 07866 580110

We have lined up an absolutely stunning duo for the final concert in our 2019-20 season. Charlie Lovell-Jones, at the age of 20, is one of the very best young violinists in the UK at the present time; he made his Royal Festival Hall debut at 15 when he played *The Lark Ascending*.



Sonia Levy and Richard Allaway heard Charlie perform the Mendelssohn concerto at a Bishop's Stortford Sinfonia concert and, in Richard and Sonia's words, he "threw

off a Paganini Caprice as an encore with such aplomb" that they signed him up that very evening to come to Stansted!

Appearing with Charlie will be David Palmer, pianist and composer. David and Charlie met at Oxford University and enjoy playing regularly as a duo. David is a music teacher, and



ensemble playing is an important part of his musical life. He also enjoys accompanying local choirs and performing orchestral keyboard parts.

For their recital in Stansted on **Saturday 28th March** at 7.30pm in St John's Church, Charlie and David have chosen a programme full of colourful pieces, some to show off their virtuosic skills, such as Heinrich Ernst's fiendish *Caprice on der Erlkönig* (after Franz Schubert), and others reflecting a more gentle side to their musicality, including a *Cradle Song* by Sibelius and a touching arrangement of Foster's *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair* by the legendary violinist Heifitz. Three luscious French sonatas will be featured, from Fauré, Poulenc and Saint-Saëns, as well as one of Bach's great sonatas for unaccompanied violin. Tickets: adults £15, concessions £12, under-18s free, available from Sonia on 815282; Absolute Travel; Nockolds, Bishop's Stortford or at the door. Check our website for general information and further details about Charlie and David, or please email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk if you have a specific enquiry.

Alan Corbishley

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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

Work on the Molehill Green pavilion has begun and all paperwork has been completed. The Club has a 25-year licence with Molehill Green Cricket Club and the Essex County Cricket Club so that cricket will start this season at the ground. After our first option at Elsenham Place failed, the Club was so lucky to receive a friendly call from John Smith, Chairman of Molehill Green Cricket Club. He had the vision that others lacked. Indoor nets were well attended on 6th February for the seniors. The Herts and Essex Border League fixtures start on **Saturday 2nd May** with our 1st XI away to North Weald and our 2nd XI at home to local rivals Takeley II. It has been a very busy winter break at the Club with improvements also taking place at our Stansted House ground, mainly in our netting and veranda areas. If you would like to join our Club please contact me; anyone aged five and above is welcome, but if you are that young please ask your parents first!



David Brown

Tel: 831011 or 07788 999663

Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

Both our First team and our over 45s Veterans have enjoyed a rich run of form which has consolidated both teams into the top half positions of their respective leagues. Manager Paul Pittuck and his assistant John Watters led the First team to a Club record run of consecutive league wins. We will be outside the top two positions come the end of the season; however, this month we will again have an active say on who the winners of the league will be as we are due to play at home to Walthamstow and away against Hashtag United. If the cup results go our way, we may be playing a home tie against Harlow Town in the semi-final of the Tolleshunt D'Arcy Memorial Cup, which would be a great test as it has been many seasons since we last played them. The over 45s will also have a huge say on where the league title will go this season; they may even win it themselves as they have games in hand on the top two sides and have still yet to play them both, they will be real 'six pointer games'. Team manager Gary Cook has established a well-motivated and talented squad which, if success doesn't happen this season, will surely come next season. Below are the home fixtures for March; some changes may take place, so please check our social media sites or contact me for match confirmation.

7 th	Enfield	ESL Prem Division	KO 3.00pm
14 th	Walthamstow	ESL Prem Division	KO 3.00pm
24 th	Hadley	ESL Prem Division	KO 7.45pm
31 st	Ilford	ESL Prem Division	KO 7.45pm



Tom Williams

Secretary

Tel: 07921 403842



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

We are starting to look forward to the 2020 season, and the first event off the green is our enrolment evening **on Friday 27th March** from 7.30pm. New members can take advantage of a heavily discounted rate during their first year. If you feel like trying it out, there are always many players happy to show you the ropes and we have plenty of spare woods to loan out. Come along, have a chat, then when the green opens you can have a go. Another date for your diaries, for all you budding masterminds: we are holding our pre-season Quiz Night on **Saturday 4th April** at 7.30pm sharp at the Club-house in Recreation Ground. Please contact me to reserve your ticket, only £7.50, which includes a half time ploughman's tray. We have a licensed bar, raffle, top team cash prize and of course the booby for the losers.

Our season will start in mid-April; more on that in the next issue of The Link. However, our pre-season has already kicked off with the many tasks to keep the grounds in top condition both on and off the playing area; we like to think of it as Stansted's little piece of paradise. It is not bowling but another pastime that you can get involved in if you are keen around the garden; it is better than having an allotment! Happy Bowling!

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



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

The structure of the new Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) has now been released and Stansted 1st XI will play in Division 2 alongside Abridge, Braughing, Cloghams, High Beach, Hockerill I, Nazeing Common II, Thaxted, Willingale and Woodford Wells IV. The constitution, rules and Committee members were due to be confirmed at the league's inaugural meeting on Monday 17th February. Winter nets started on Tuesday 4th February at HECC Sport Cricket Centre, Tharbies Farm, Rook End, High Wych, Sawbridgeworth, Herts, CM21 0LL. Two lanes have been booked, so there is plenty of opportunity for all both to bat and to bowl. The booking runs for 10 Tuesdays, ending on 7th April, but please note that the start time will be 9.00pm not 8.00pm, as stated in last month's Link.

You can contact the Club by email: stanstedcc@gmail.com and follow it on our website or on Facebook at Stansted Cricket Club, and on Twitter at @StanstedCC. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the Club next season such as by a large banner displayed at the ground, please contact our sponsorship manager, Huw Edwards, by email: huw_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



The Big Bus for Little People

www.buffybus.co.uk

Have you been on the new Buffy Playbus, launched last October? What a first term we had; not only the launch of our new bus but also the celebration of the fact that our organisation has been in existence for 25 years and has welcomed over 100,000 people on board. The bus includes new toys, an arts and crafts area, an extended ball pond and an amazing sensory den with touch, sound and light panels. We were able to install this wonderful new feature due to the generosity of many people who contributed to our crowdfund campaign over the summer which raised over £5,000; we are very grateful to everyone who helped us.



The bus was officially opened by four young members of our Buffy family who have supported and attended the bus over previous years. They were delighted to cut the ribbon with the help of Cllr Richard Freeman, chair of Uttlesford District Council. We have been overwhelmed with all the positive comments from local families: "We love absolutely everything about the new bus" said one parent and "The sensory den is wonderful and the activities involve all the senses, a perfect experience for my toddler" explained another family. We thank everyone for supporting us in so many different ways over the last 25 years. Buffy Playbus provides pre-school children with an opportunity to play, socialise and have fun in comfortable and safe surroundings under the guidance of experienced playleaders. We operate during term-time, including half term. We stop on Wednesdays 1.45pm-3.00pm in Walson Way, Forest Hall. For more information see our website or call 01799 522130.

Rosie Juhl
Project Manager

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What can I say regarding the weather? The ground should have been frozen and solid, but no, it has been muddy and sloshy. I am hoping that my walk in February will have conformed to statistics; however everything appears to be in the big 'melting bag'. We have loads of birds and flowers, even a bumblebee today (31st January) thinking that spring is here. Our footpaths are definitely interesting; even some of our local 'diddy' roads are flooded, and off-road, the paths are definitely slippery. Wear correct boots and use a good stick; forget that it makes you look old - a stick really helps you keep balance and increases your walking strength. We have a really good programme so keep on coming. My good friend and neighbour, Lorna (and tiny terrier) have been coming along with me to suss out the most varied paths, good views and best routes. We think that the February walk will have proved to be an interesting one.



Walk leaders do have to carry out a lot of exploratory walks to find a walk that suits and we need more people to help out. As a female on my own, I find it pretty daunting, but very satisfying, so would you like to come with me and my hero Lorna during the week sometime and sort out a walk? I possess neither a camera nor an iphone so I am reliant on you; please send me some photographs. I call the one above 'Let's get onto a footpath'. It is in Stansted; does anyone recognize it?



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



RECYCLE INK, STAMPS AND TOOTHBRUSHES!



Since starting to collect used ink cartridges in the middle of 2017, we have raised nearly £250. The money has gone towards the expenses of Messy Church, which is funded by all the Stansted churches. Thank you very much to all who have made this possible – please keep them coming! A reminder that we are collecting the following:

Original Ink Cartridges

All makes are accepted 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 are collecting boxes for all of the above in the Free Church Foyer (which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm), and the Free Church Hall. There are also boxes in the Quaker Meeting House and St John's Church, which is open most weekday mornings. 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



VOLUNTEERING FOR GROVE COTTAGE

www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Do you have some time that you would like to use in a rewarding and positive way? Have you ever thought about giving back to your local community? Would you like to meet new people or learn new skills? If you answer 'Yes' to any of the above, we would love to see you at our Volunteer Recruitment Afternoon on **Saturday 21st March** at the Charis Centre in Bishop's Stortford. The event starts with refreshments at 1.30pm, followed by a presentation at 2.00pm. There will then be an opportunity to discuss volunteer opportunities with staff and current volunteers.



Monica Baker, Volunteer Co-ordinator said: "Volunteers play a key role at Grove Cottage and help in all areas including at our clubs, driving our minibus, at fundraising events and in the office. We simply could not run without volunteers and can find a role suitable for nearly everyone. If you volunteer you will make a real difference to local people with a learning disability and you'll get something out of the experience". If you are unable to make the event but would like to learn more, please contact Monica, email: volunteer@mencapgrovecottage.org.

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Age 7-11	Email: contactstanfam@yahoo.com	familybarnett24@hotmail.com	
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Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768		Email: fiona1.kelly@btintetnet.com
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	U3A	Ray Smith Tel: 813270
(Classical concerts)	Email:	W I Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
	contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	W I (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Neighbourhood	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433	Whoosh Explore	Helen and Peter Nash
Watch		Canoe Club	Tel: 817453
Parkinson's UK	Vivian Falk	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Uttlesford Support	Tel: 01799 513128		
Group	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		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

Index to Advertisers

IFC - Inside Front Cover		IBC - Inside Back Cover	OBC - Outside Back Cover	
Animal Care	Debs Dogs	16	Hairdressing	Briggs Mobile Hairdresser 18
	Mercer & Hughes	OBC		Barnet Fayre 18
	Poochie Mumma	16		Claire's Gents Hairstylist 18
Building Services	A C Wright Building Contractors	38		Lino Thomas OBC
	David Lee	38		The Mainstreet Barber Shop 18
	Hibbs & Walsh (Architects)	38	Halls for Hire	Quaker Meeting House 16
	David Fortune (Builder)	OBC		Manuden Community Centre 16
	Uttlesford District Council	38		St John's Church Hall 16
Carpentry	Vester Property Services	IBC		Ugley Village Hall 16
	Canfield Carpentry	38	Household Installations	D C Alarms 30
Chiropody	Gillson Carpentry & Joinery	38		Mediacomms 30
	R Handford	10		SDS Aerials 30
Cleaning	Julie Golden	10	Ironing	Sygma Security Systems 30
	Clear Ovens	18		Dunmow Ironing Parlour 18
Community & Care	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	18	Jeweller	John Wilson 10
	Broome End Care Home	8	Legal	Herts and Essex Wills 26
	Hargrave House Care Home	8		Lever & Co Solicitors 26
	Hearing Help	10	Leisure	Golf World IFC
	Helpline	10		Stansted Social Club 16
	Human Roots	16	Motor Repairs	D Bonney & Sons 26
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	8		Essex Autospray 26
	Ross Nursing Services	10	Music Lessons	Carr (Piano, Organ, Singing) 12
	MCM Computer Services	10		Priest (Piano, Violin, Singing) 12
Computing	Taylor Computer Service	10		Hamilton (Singing) 12
	Graham School of Dance	12	Networking	Stansted Business Forum 26
Dance	Mitchell School of Dance	12	Osteopathy & Physiotherapy	Quendon Osteopathy 6
	Castle Dental	6		Williams (Osteopath) 6
Dental	Chapel Hill Dental	6	Painting, Decorating & Plastering	Ada Decorating 32
	Birchanger Butterflies Nursery	12		Brown's Painting & Decorating 32
Education & Children	Howe Green House School	12		David Duncan Decorating 32
	Rainbow Pre-School	12		Lesley Anne (Painting) 32
	Tuition (ages 4 - 11)	12		MWR Interiors 32
	Albury Electrical Services	36		Prime Decor 32
Electrical	CK Electrical	36		Ray on the Hill 32
	Stansted Electric	36	Personal Services	Fresh Leaf (Hypnotherapy) 10
	Murdochs	IBC		Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy) 10
Estate Agent	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC		Stansted Psychotherapy 10
Financial	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	IFC	Plumbing & Heating	Harpers Plumbing & Heating OBC
	Furniture by Design	38		JDW Gas Heating Specialist 36
	Peter Worby Antiques Restoration	38		Jones (Plumbing & Heating) 36
Fitness	Flexible Strength	6		M Lloyd and Son 36
	Back to Basics (Pilates)	6		Newman's Home Services 36
	Stansted Yoga Lounge	6		Orion Heating 36
Food & Drink	Hadham Brewery	OBC		P Knight Plumbing 36
	Lams Chinese Takeaway	IBC		Stansted Gas Services 36
	Mayflower Chinese Takeaway	IBC	Printing	Chogou Printing & Embroidery 32
	The Dog & Duck	28		CZ Design & Print 32
Garden Services	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC	Property Maintenance	Do-It-4U 32
	Illuminating Gardens	30		Fairweather Windows IFC
	Gill Owen & Colin Frost	28		Finch and Son OBC
	Greenscroft Fencing	30		Herts & Essex Window Doctor 32
	Langthorns Plantery	28	Retailers	Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts) IFC
	Mowtivated	28		Squires (Gifts, Plants and Cards) IBC
	The Secret Gardener	28	Soft Furnishings & Sewing	Start Blinds IFC
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	26		Teach me to Sew 18
	J Day & Son (Stonemason)	26	Tree Surgeons	All Aspects Tree Services 28
				Tree Management Company 28
				Uppercut Trees 28

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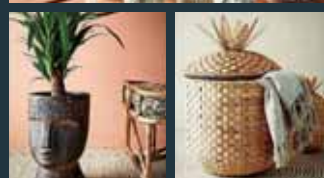
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