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Front cover:

Young Link readers in
Stansted Library by
Mark Anderson
enhanced by
Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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EDITORIAL



I am sure that the front cover this month has brought a smile to your faces, with the two enchanting children reading *The Link*. Our thanks to their parents, who took the photographs, and to Paul Burt for enhancing the one that we used. If any of you has a picture of local interest that you would like to put forward for a *Link* cover, please do let us know. We have had wonderful pictures this year for our cover, taken by a variety of people, for which we are hugely grateful. Normally at this time of year we are focussed on Remembrance Sunday, and it is sad that the usual formal gathering at the War Memorial to honour the fallen of the wars is not happening this year. We will be remembering them in our hearts, I am sure.

It is clear from many of the articles in this issue that Zoom and Microsoft Teams have been a cause for great comfort to families and friends who have to be physically separated from each other; they have enabled classes to take place at Universities and Colleges, as well as in schools earlier this year. Businesses rely on them to function these days; they are very impressive pieces of technology. Our thanks once again to our contributors, without whom we would have no magazine. There are a couple more nostalgic articles and photographs in this issue (pages 7 and 31), which we hope you will enjoy. I am also pleased to introduce you to Lucy Loveridge on page 9, whom all of you will know by sight. Take care and warmest wishes from all of us.

STANSTED LIBRARY POST LOCKDOWN

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go.
Dr Seuss

As shown on the front cover, it has been great to get back to the library with my children. Visiting today, the librarian was keen to tell us they are happy to be welcoming more people and are as Covid-safe as possible. There have been a few changes to make things safer. Children's books are helpfully bundled up so you can pick up a set to take home without worrying about touching and putting back. While my kids used to love choosing their own books, they love the surprise of opening the selection at home at least as much.

While it is not a new addition, I also strongly recommend the BorrowBox app. It is free for library members to use and allows you to download audiobooks and e-books to your phone or another device. Not every book I have looked for is on there but there is a really good selection and I have found some great things which I was not looking for. Audiobooks were especially good whilst stuck at home in lockdown. I felt a lot less guilty distracting the kids with a story than sticking them in front of the television; and listening to a book made washing-up at 9.00 or 10.00pm after a day of working and home-schooling a lot more bearable.

Now the library is open again I realise even more how much we all value it. Audiobooks are great, but having new books to sit and read together is better. I don't know what the current situation is with plans for the library, but I imagine its future is still far from certain. I hope we can all make the most of it and support them to continue. See page 21 for contact details and opening hours.

Vicki Anderson



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

We are now starting our closed season: a time for taking stock and looking forward. The rains of early October were welcome as the groundwater is still well down in the area, following three years of low rainfall. The Peto lilypond's water level is a good indicator; it is normally entirely dependent on rainfall as we do not have a mains water supply. We refilled it from a standpipe in March 2019 when we had cleaned the pond and it is still well below its ideal level. The rains helped the dahlias finish their season in style; tall and covered in flowers, and watered in the 1000 cuttings we took at a workshop led by Christine Walkden, one of our new Trustees.



October was particularly exciting for us, because we signed the contract to restore the balustrade around the lilypond. The work will involve replacing 91 of the 134 balusters and then rebuilding the balustrade, hopefully in time for the first full season open day in 2021. We are now fundraising to help ensure the project does not completely exhaust our reserves and leave us exposed for the uncertain times we are living through. Please consider helping us; a donation of £250 will fund a new baluster, but any donation, however small, would be fantastic. You can find more details in the fundraising section of our website.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439



Children are getting a flavour of what life at secondary school is like via the internet. With restrictions meaning schools cannot hold their usual open events and taster days, alternative ways of showing prospective students around are being offered. Pupils keen to find out more about the school are being given the chance to attend sample lessons in the virtual world. Yoga, PE, science, food technology and design technology sessions are being held over three weeks for Year 6 primary school pupils to log into.



Sarah Power, Enrichment Leader, who held the yoga lesson, said: "We are offering these sessions to give next year's Year 7 students a taster of what a regular day is like at the school. These are all classes we offer as enrichment clubs. At our traditional open evening, children would get to see the different departments and to ask questions. We would be able to have a chat and get to know each other. The next best thing is to do all of this online. The first taster session of yoga was a real success. Year 6 pupils were all able to turn on their microphones and greet one another with the word 'namaste' and those who were comfortable turned on their camera to do their yoga poses. Dancer pose was a favourite by far. I am really looking forward to meeting some of them next year when they join the school." The school also has a virtual open event film on its website.

Kelly Clark



As I write this, we are celebrating #HelloYellow which supports young minds as part of World Mental Health Day. All children and staff are wearing differing shades of yellow and we look dappled in sunshine on this beautiful autumn day. In the current climate we have become a cashless school so it is very heartening that already - at 10.20am - £307 has been donated to this very worthy cause by parents on a Just Giving page. Thank you all. Activities in school over the past week have included UKS2 making electrical circuits and LKS2 exploring how to make an exploding volcano model. All children have enjoyed the Active Essex Skipping Day too.

This year's prospective parent tours for our 2021 reception intake will obviously take a different approach. So far, we are planning an interactive map with 360-degree photos, a site full to the brim of parent information, PowerPoints about each phase and words, and thoughts from our Head Girl and Head Boy. We will let everyone know the exact day we go live at a later stage. I hope everyone had a happy and safe half term.

Matthew Curzon
Acting Headteacher



It is all going on down at our farm at the moment; the piglets are as cute as ever and mischievous as anything and just love a good tickle! We have a new addition and that is **Roger the rhea**. He is a distant relative of the emu and ostrich and can be seen charging round his field checking out his new surroundings. He is a very handsome chap and is settling into his new home very well indeed. Do come and see him and say hello. Please see our website for our opening hours. We are also very excited about some more birds that will soon be joining us, and they are two **Tawny owls**. We have prepared their new home and we cannot wait to have such fascinating creatures come and live with us at the farm.



Make sure you put our **Christmas Santa's Sleigh Ride** on **Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th November** in your diary; there will be a whole array of festive things for everyone to get involved with (whilst respecting Government guidelines of course). This will be a ticketed event, so make sure you keep an eye out for the booking details when they are released. These events are a vital lifeline for us to raise enough funds to feed and look after our animals and we can only do this with your help and support. You can help us to raise funds by coming to these events and also by visiting our Facebook Page: Daisy May's Farm, Elsenham or donating via our Just Giving page. If all our followers donated just £1, it would make a huge difference. Please contact us by telephone or take a look at our website to find out more. The farm is in Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN. Thank you so much.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973



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www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk

Hello Humans, we are truly around the corner now, aren't we? The mornings are darker and the days are colder. As a South African, I have never quite enjoyed the winter months; they have always been too cold, wet and dark. But I cannot wait for winter this year! All it took was an outside job but one which slows down in winter. I am so excited to put my feet up and start planning next year's garden.



Speaking of planning, I wanted to reach out to you all and invite you to come along and volunteer this coming year. You might find yourself with a bit of extra time on your hands now that you are maybe working from home, or perhaps you have been unfortunate and lost your job. Human Roots Community will have a place for everyone. We have some pretty fantastic programmes and pilots for the coming year and will need as much help as we can muster.



Help is needed in all sorts of areas, not just the muddy ones. We are going to be continuing with our fresh food parcels, as well as rolling out our school enrichment pilot and our community fridge this coming year. If these are things that excite you, then we are the charity for you! We need people with the passion to make a difference and who want to be part of positive change. Help us connect our community in the hope of a bountiful future.

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Please get in touch via our website and sign up today. We cannot wait to meet you!



Kieran Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: kieran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk

MEET THE TEAM

Catherine Dean

Last month's 40th birthday edition of The Link reminded me that in the early days it was delivered by volunteers to households who had subscribed. Now it is an award-winning free magazine going through every letter box in the village, which is quite an achievement. My place on The Link Committee came about because I represented the Parish Council. Now I am no longer a parish councillor I have stayed on, but, compared to most of the Committee members, my contribution is quite meagre. Apart from attending meetings I proof-read the Stansted Network pages.



Next year I will have lived in Stansted with my husband Alan for fifty years, on Croasdaile Road in the early days, then on the Recreation Ground, with a few years out spent in Java, Indonesia. I have been involved in various village organisations: the Methodist church (now combined with the United Reformed church as the Free Church), Churches Together in Stansted, the Parish Council and the Day Centre. I am also a Trustee and volunteer at the lovely Gardens of Easton Lodge in Little Easton. Three children, Christopher, Alice and Amy, and then six grandchildren, Stephanie, Max, Molly, Alfie, Emily and Thomas, have kept us busy over the years. Most of them live no further away than Bishop's Stortford, except for Stephanie, who is in London, and Christopher in Florida. Thanks to the wonders of Zoom we have been able to 'meet' as a family in recent months, which has been one of the plus sides of lockdown. Post-Covid, Alan and I hope to resume our travels, usually involving a train journey, both at home and abroad, as well as visits to the theatre, cinema and stately homes. In addition (knees permitting!) walks and pub lunches with Ken MacDonald's group.



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VINTAGE STANSTED

Following on from September and October's articles from John Salmon, Keith Eagleton and his wife Barbara (née Sandford) contacted me to see if we would like to see some more photos of vintage Stansted, as well as some taken at St Mary's School in 1952. Some of you may well be in these wonderful school photos, so look carefully, perhaps with a magnifying glass as the pictures are a bit faded. The Eagletons mention the Dennison twins, Gillian Felton and Cora Francis (who was quite a tomboy and played football better than the boys!). The Eagletons moved to the West Country a long while back, but they see The Link every month and obviously keep in touch with our community. Our thanks to Keith and Barbara for their most welcome contribution to this month's issue of The Link.





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LUCY LOVERIDGE

Stansted is lucky to have a brother and sister team working for the Parish Council as Environmental Rangers. Lucy and her older brother Levi both work in this capacity, and Lucy was kind enough to take some time out of her busy day to chat to me. She lives in Pennington Lane and her brother on the Forest Hall estate and they have been in the area for 30 years. Lucy works Monday to Friday plus a few hours on Saturday morning; Levi works part time. Lucy used to work in the Co-operative Store in Cambridge Road, but changed jobs four years ago – just as the Brexit vote was cast in 2016. She works in the central section of the village up to the skatepark and Levi works along Church Road. Lucy is very contented indeed with her job and with her life, sharing it as she does with her cat. As she lives in Pennington Lane, she is very concerned about the prospect of yet more development in the area and is keen for Stansted to stay the same size as it is at present, with no more expansion.

What Lucy likes best about her work is the mixture of people whom she encounters every day; she finds that friendly people give her the ability to smile, even on the wettest days! She finds the variety of religions represented in the village to be absolutely fascinating, and has enjoyed many a chat about anything and everything (philosophy to dress codes) with, for example, Muslim ladies who live in the village.



What she likes least about the job is the fact that, on dark evenings, people walking their dogs fail to notice when the pooch poops, leaving Lucy with a nasty mess to clean up the next morning. Levi complains that the local school children who walk up and down Church Road just toss rubbish onto the road, in spite of the fact that there are several litter bins up the road. One of the most amusing incidents witnessed by Lucy involved a car driving very slowly round the roundabout, startling a female pedestrian who was not paying attention. She stopped him, gave him the full force of her fury, while he calmly got out of his car and blew her kisses; she kept yelling, and he kept on sending her kisses! What a great way to deal with stressed people! I enjoyed my chat with this lovely lady; I have rarely met anyone so content and peaceful. She comes across some really strange objects in the bins while emptying them, but nothing seems to faze her, whatever she finds!

Editor

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Peculiarities of the English Language

As one who sometimes struggles to communicate in my native tongue (English) I have great admiration for those who have used the time spent in lockdown to learn a foreign language. Apparently, the English language is one of the most difficult languages to master, and I am not surprised as there are many anomalies. For instance, there are several words that sound the same but have different meanings depending on how they're spelt: altar and alter, bare and bear (potentially embarrassing if predictive text gets it wrong), flower and flour or wear and where are just a few examples. Other words have different meanings when pronounced differently eg a process is a series of operations used in making something, but to process as in take part in a procession is something else entirely. In the same way a desert, such as the Sahara is not quite the same as to desert someone; put another 's' in the middle, dessert, and it means a sweet, as in pudding (not a suite which has the same pronunciation but is definitely not edible!).

The words flammable and inflammable have always bothered me. The OED definitions are the same for both words; easily set on fire, but if direct means clear and explicit and indirect is the opposite, surely inflammable should be the opposite of flammable? Similarly putting certain words together can cause confusion. When invited to my first working party I was puzzled; I had attended birthday parties, come-as-you-are parties and even all-night parties but I wasn't sure exactly what a working party was – the two words didn't really seem to belong together. I soon found out that the emphasis was definitely on working rather than partying and have declined similar invitations ever since.

Technology Rant

Like a lot of people, I have a love hate relationship with modern technology. I loved my ancient PC until it died on me and at the moment I hate my newly installed one. This new system has all sorts of wonderful features that I will never need to use and I am struggling to locate the basic programs amid the forest of unfamiliar symbols that now litter my home page. The mobile phone industry has recognised that not everyone wants a phone that does everything except make the tea, producing an easy to use model that just makes and receives calls and texts. Surely the computer industry could do the same and go back to basics for the non-technically minded; or is it just me?

Loki



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An Exciting look to the Future

We are delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted for a new building on our current site. The pandemic has made us realise more than ever how inadequate our current building is. As demand for our services has grown in recent years so has the pressure on our building, and in order to comply with current standards, we need more space and facilities that are fit for purpose. The picture below shows an artist's impression of the new building.



Thanks to prudent financial management and the continuing support of the community, we are now able to bring Grove Cottage into the 21st century with a purpose-built state-of-the-art building. Our next step is to conduct stakeholder consultations to help us shape new services and to plan the layout of the new building. A fundraising appeal will then follow. Exciting times ahead!



Clubs are Back!

It has been wonderful to resume some of our services and welcome back our members over the past few weeks, including our Special Needs nursery and our Saturday clubs, Performing arts, Grove Cottage café @Thirst and Get Active clubs. Unfortunately, we are still unable to reintroduce our Youth club or Adult clubs but are continually reviewing the situation.

Alison Cameron
Fundraising Assistant
Tel: 651908

Email: fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org

Covid-19 is not stopping us! We recently completed our three-month intensive mail drop and social media campaign. During this time, we recorded 200,000 interfaces with the public in the area around Bishop's Stortford. In addition, our speaker programme has had 1,200 viewings, either live or via our YouTube channel. We are thrilled with the response from the general public and are contacting everyone who has expressed interest in joining or helping our Club. Already new ideas are emerging which we will integrate into an expanded programme supporting, either financially or practically, many local causes which are in so much need of help. We have managed to continue offering support throughout the pandemic, with our largest intervention being the £12,000 support for our life education project. The project has proved so valuable across our primary schools but which was in danger of being suspended or seriously curtailed. Our new website is now up and running and proving to be very popular; through this we are about to launch an online fundraising platform which will initially support three locally based charities.

We are all becoming skilled at our online presentations and meetings. At a recent meeting, presenters from inside and outside the Club gave five-minute talks on what our Club is achieving. A number of those who had recently expressed interest in our Club were invited to join the meeting which lasted an hour. The model worked well and proved informative to members as well as newcomers.



Peter Latham
Tel: 881607

Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOD BANK
Now Uttlesford Foodbank

Stansted Food Bank (SFB) has ceased to operate and requests for food parcels by Stansted residents will be met by Uttlesford Food Bank (UFB). Set up by Churches Together in Stansted, SFB was the first food bank in Uttlesford and was run independently by volunteers. Disbanding it has been sad for the team, but also, if we are honest, quite a relief as, being a small number of people, we have struggled at times. We have been very grateful for generous donations of food and money from the community, through the collection points in the churches, Tesco and Co-op, and from church and school Harvest Festivals. We have transferred our stocks and remaining funds, which will be earmarked for Stansted. For information about how to receive a food parcel please phone UFB on 07971 631606 or visit their website www.uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk or Facebook page. For donations there is a collecting box at the Co-op; look out for the UFB logo which is shown above. Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last few years. Please continue to give your support to UFB.

Barbara, Catherine, Eileen, Elaine, Helen and Sue




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1. Stand in front of a mirror
2. Wrap a dynaband around your lowest ribs, keeping it wide, not rolled up
3. Pull on the band to tighten it up, holding it at the front
4. Breathe in gently, expanding your low ribs into the band. You are aiming for an entire torso expansion: front, sides, back and belly. Check your shoulders remain low and relaxed. Your throat should remain relaxed too
5. Breathe out, with the entire torso subsiding, front, back, sides and belly, with shoulders and throat nice and calm.



Remember that the diaphragm relaxes as we breathe out, so encourage a lovely long stress-free out breath, but avoid equating relaxing with slumping! The spine remains long, or, for bonus points, lengthens up. This exercise starts very gently. As things improve, the intensity can be increased with bigger breathing. You should notice a distinct pause building up between the in breaths and out breaths. This is a good thing.

Someone who works for Z-Health is an iron man athlete and he does very well in competitions. He does not run, swim or cycle long distances in his training programme, but he does do 20 minutes breathing drills daily. Successful cardio is heavily dependent upon efficient breathing. Instead of panting when the going gets tough, increase the breathing volume: calm breathing, calm brain.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



We are a free NHS Hearing Aid Support service for the cleaning and re-tubing of hearing aids. As the Day Centre remains closed, we are temporarily operating from the Free Church Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For an appointment please call 01245 496347. For further information see our advert on page 24.



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MENTAL HEALTH ESSEX

www.uttlesfordcab.org.uk

Surge in Demand for Mental Health Support

We are supporting a countywide campaign to tackle declining mental wellbeing as a result of coronavirus. The campaign is led by Essex County Council (ECC) and supported by Essex organisations. Latest figures show the number of adult mental assessments have increased by around 50% and referrals to mental health professionals have increased significantly. The Essex Mental Health and Wellbeing Team is also seeing its highest ever number of referrals. In response, ECC is launching *Mental Health Essex*, which aims to reach those most at risk of suffering with mental health issues as a result of Covid-19, providing information and support. The campaign uses local insight to target these specific groups who may be suffering with their mental health:

- People with employment issues (furloughed, newly unemployed, at risk of redundancy)
- Adults with young children: those with children age 0-4 are the highest risk, but those with older children are also experiencing mental health issues
- Women (due to caring responsibilities)
- Younger adults

Details can be found on the Uttlesford Frontline website www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk and www.essex.gov.uk/mental-health. In addition, trained advisers at our office can provide practical support for people who are faced with a change in their circumstances, for example following redundancy, and help them to plan for the future. Phone or email us for help with benefit entitlements, housing issues, money worries, employment rights or access to emergency support; an adviser will call you back as soon as possible. Our office is in Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB and is open Monday to Friday 9.30am-3.30pm.

Jo Hancock
Tel: 01799 618840
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Opening hours at St Mary's are 11.00am-3.00pm during the winter months and the Champing season will close on 31st October. Sadly we have been forced to cancel all plans for Christmas events in church this year due to the pandemic. However, we will decorate the church tree and also have the memory tree for you to leave messages for loved ones. This means that we will not hold the Christmas Tree Festival, theatre or Carol Service this year; apologies for the disappointment. I would also like to remind you all that social distancing and wearing of a face covering is required when inside the church. As soon as restrictions allow, we will start to plan events in St Mary's again.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This will be my last *Thought for the Month* in The Link as I will be retiring as Rector of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham, at the end of November. It has been a privilege to serve these three parishes over the past 13 years, which have been ones of constant change for Stansted. When I came here the Forest Hall development was planned but had not yet begun, St Mary's School was still beside the church in St John's Road and there were roadworks on Silver Street (some things, of course, don't change!). Now the village is a far bigger place with further development still to come.

I am sad that my last year here has been marked by the restrictions that have stopped me doing the things I felt most called to do: be with and among people, rejoicing in their joys and sharing in their sadness. The Church of England has a particular vision of the way it is called to be. It sees itself as a church for the whole community. One sign of this is the fact that anyone who lives in the parish can have their say at the Annual Church Meeting, and even vote for who the Churchwardens can be. I do not know of any other denomination that gives the people among whom it is set such powerful voice in its organisation. I will not be here but, alongside our partners in the other denominations, the Church of England will; a Christian presence at the heart of our community, here for you and with you.



Paul Wilkin
Rector of Stansted, Birchanger and Farnham



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the September draw:

£100	No 20	Kathleen Clark
£50	No 161	Margaret Wells
£25	No 183	John Elliott

The draw for November will be held on **29th November** either in St John's Church or from my home, in the presence of the online congregation, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 each month are still available for anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away each year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062

There are no entries for September in the St John's Registers.

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

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

Meeting Sundays 10.30am



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
Including Church St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
Hall bookings Tel: 815243 (with answerphone)
Office hours: 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

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

Services

Sundays, 9.30am – Sung Eucharist (in the church and also available through Zoom). Face coverings required please.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 9.00am Morning Prayer through Zoom. The church is open for private prayer on Wednesday mornings from 9.00am to 1.00pm. For Zoom log in details please email: stansted.rector@gmail.com.

Christmas Market

We are really sorry, but due to the Covid-19 restrictions imposed on us, our Parochial Church Council has made a decision that there will be no Christmas Market at St John's this year. We are very disappointed, as apart from being our major fundraising event, it is a great social occasion which many people from our village really appreciate and enjoy. We are hoping to be able to hold a spring or summer market of some sort next year (Covid-19 situation permitting). However, our wonderful group of Craft Ladies will be at the Ugley Farmers' Market (provided there are no new restrictions imposed by the Government) on **Saturday 21st November** selling a variety of Christmas items.

Kathryn West
Pastoral Assistant
Tel: 816293



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

Sunday worship in the church at 10.30am

Preachers for November

1st Mike Dyer
8th Mike Dyer - Remembrance
15th Rev'd Gill Hulme
22nd Mark Hayes
29th Rev'd Christine Fowler

Zoom services on Sundays at 10.30am will continue for the foreseeable future for those who are not yet ready to return to church. If you are not online, you can telephone in. Please contact me for login details.

During October we held our Harvest service, when we usually invite the congregation to bring items of food which are then passed on to the Foodbank or Whitechapel Mission.

Coronavirus guidelines for churches did not recommend food collection this year, so we had a financial appeal



for Whitechapel Mission and we were able to send £300 to support their ongoing vital work amongst the homeless in London. They were the only organisation which stayed open during the entire lockdown, serving those who were unable or unwilling to take advantage of the Government's scheme to house homeless people in hotels during the first few months of the pandemic. During the service we watched a video about

their work during this time, and how they are now able to offer their full range of services to the homeless. The church was delightfully enhanced by this display designed by Brenda Veitch.

The church hall is available for regular and one-off bookings of permitted activities which fall within the Government's guidelines. Please contact me for further information.



Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

ROMAN CATHOLIC

St Theresa's of Lisieux
High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresasstansted.org

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

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

Masses
Saturday 5.00pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass
Sunday 8.30am and 10.00am Mass
9.15am Confessions
12.00pm *Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form)
(*First Sunday of every month)
Monday 9.00am Confessions 9.30am Mass
Tuesday 7.15am Confessions
8.00pm Latin Mass (Extraordinary Form)
Wednesday Noon Confessions 12.30pm Mass
Thursday/Friday 9.00am Confessions 9.30am Mass

Baptism By appointment

Livestream Mass

We livestream our Masses via our YouTube channel; the link can be found at <https://www.sttheresasstansted.org/live-mass/>

Website and Facebook Page

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StTheresaStansted>.

Details of our **Christmas Masses** will be published in the next edition of The Link or can be found on our website. You will need to book in advance and booking opens on 1st December.

Clair Rava

Parish Administrator

Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org



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

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

We continue to meet on Tuesday evenings and Sundays using a combination of in-person and online meetings, all in accordance with Government guidance. As rules are subject to both local and national changes at relatively short notice, please email or ring us for the latest updates on what is running and how best to access it. If you have a prayer request, please contact us. If you are looking for Christians with a contemporary outlook, a desire to grow in our faith, and a vision to benefit our community, why not get in touch?



Ros and Howard Page



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Tel: **01279 814052** Email: ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY - MUSEUMS

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Since March, getting out in the countryside has been greatly encouraged. Successive generations have shaped this fertile land. They have planted hedges and cut wood from ancient, coppiced woodlands, tended animals, planted orchards and harvested honey from bees. Profiting from this productive land, many constructed beautiful buildings that reflected pride in their locality. Today, a significant number of these are listed buildings. Our rich architectural tapestry is brilliantly recorded in *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There are a few copies still available by mail order from the society's website or from local bookshops and Tourist Information Centres.

Museum collections of assorted artefacts and documents add another dimension to the human history of the area. Saffron Walden Museum opened in 1835 and houses a real treasure trove of historical and other material relating to the local area. A recent grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund is enabling the development of plans to attract new visitors to the museum and adjacent castle.

Smaller museums hold collections of agricultural implements, local artefacts and archive material. The Grade II* building of the Forge Museum in Much Hadham houses a collection of metal tools, and striking medieval wall paintings reveal details of Tudor fashion. The Ashdon Village Museum has exhibits about life in the 20th century and the curator is updating information on the family trees of seventy local residents and preparing displays in anticipation of re-opening in the future.



Saffron Walden Museum



Forge Museum, Much Hadham



Ashdon Village Museum



Barkway High Street

We look forward to the time when our museums can safely reopen. Meanwhile, we can enjoy our heritage and celebrate the past by continuing to explore the countryside and local villages, such as Barkway shown above. With regular additions of new walks to the society's website, we can use these descriptive routes, some as short as one mile, to explore the cultural landscapes that make up the Hundred Parishes.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Tel: 01277 364522

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NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

SKATEPARK JAM

The sixth annual Jam since the opening of our "new" skatepark took place in mid-September. Every year we seem to be blessed with favourable weather and this year was no exception, with over 80 participants having the opportunity to showcase their skills whilst adhering to the Covid-19 guidance and social distancing which was also applied to spectators.

As ever the main driving force behind organising the event was Seann Tompson who always does an amazing job, but this year Covid-19 presented significant challenges. Seann however was not daunted and put together his risk assessments and action plan for the day, showing how a safe event complying with all the social distancing protocols could be successfully staged.

This quote comes from a report written by Seann for the *Ride UK BMX magazine*: "Overall the jam was a resounding success and everyone who took part had a massive smile on their face. I was able to go home knowing I had done my bit to inject just a little bit of rad to people's lives within my local community." For those of you who are not regulars down at the skatepark this is the definition of "rad" from the Urban Dictionary: When awesome and cool just aren't enough to describe something. You can read the full article at:

<https://rideukbmx.com/ride-uk-features/gallery-stansted-jam-2020.html>



Our picture shows Seann with some of the many prizes supplied by the sponsors of the event. A big thanks to local sponsors Cafe Yeomans and Mix Wine Bar.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Plans to enter the village in Anglia in Bloom 2020 were scuppered by the Covid-19 restrictions but a group has been formed in the hope that we can enter the competition in 2021. The proposed aims of the Stansted in Bloom Group are to encourage the local community to improve the village environment through imaginative planting of trees, shrubs and flowers in public and private open spaces. They will also work with other interested parties to encourage conservation and recycling projects and to eliminate eyesores such as litter, graffiti and vandalism.

The group is independent of the Parish Council but will be working very closely with it to complement the good work that they already do. The group will seek funding from the Airport Community Fund and other agencies and is open to discussions with any organisations who would like to be associated with this initiative.

We hope that lots of residents will want to get involved and support this group. If you are happy to give a few hours to do some physical work, or want to suggest projects for a particular location, please get in touch by emailing stanstedinbloom@gmail.com, via our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/stanstedinbloom> or by writing to us at 12 Loates Pasture, Stansted, CM24 8JH.

PARISH GRANTS

Each year the Parish Council makes small grants to organisations and/or charities which support our community. The Finance Committee considers applications in March and 1% of the precept is made available which means that £3,500 will be distributed locally.

Should you wish to apply please do so by email to parishcouncil@stansted.net or in writing to Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ stating the purpose of the grant and enclosing your latest accounts.

SPORTS STRATEGY

As part of the evidence base for the withdrawn Local Plan in 2018, Uttlesford District Council commissioned a study into the supply and demand for sports playing pitches in the District. The analysis was based on four geographical areas : Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and the wider rural area.

In the Stansted area it found a shortfall of football pitches for adults and youth teams, and that pitches for younger age groups were used at their capacity. The study also identified a shortfall of one full sized floodlit 3G pitch in the village as there are no floodlit 3G pitches at all currently available in Uttlesford. The study also identified a shortage of tennis courts in the district.

The Parish Council recently decided to set up a working group to work with the sports clubs and the wider community in Stansted and district to develop a sports strategy for the south west part of the Uttlesford District. An initial meeting with some of the clubs was held on 7th October by lead working group members, District Cllr Melvin Caton and Parish Cllr Daniel Brett.

The Parish Council is hopeful that it will be in a position to bid for a slice of the £450k fund set up by the District Council to support three major sports projects over the period to 2023. It is likely that the first grant will go towards the new floodlit pitch on the Saffron Walden County High School site.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

- ❖ Are you concerned about Stansted Mountfitchet?
- ❖ Do you want to help to make a difference to those around you?
- ❖ Do you want to represent the views of local people?
- ❖ Do you have time or expertise which could benefit the wider community?

If you have answered yes to any of the above, why not step forward and apply to become a Parish Councillor?

We currently have two vacancies, one of which is to be filled by co-option. The second vacancy will be filled by election but, due to Covid-19 legislation, no elections are allowed before May 2021.

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government and plays an important part in maintaining and improving local services and facilities for the benefit of our community. We aim to achieve the best possible outcomes for residents by:

- ❖ Providing efficient and cost-effective services within our areas of responsibility
- ❖ Working together with partners to deliver the best for our community
- ❖ Being open and transparent in our working

In “normal times” the Full Council meets on average every three weeks and the two main committees every six weeks (usually on Wednesday evenings). Attendance is expected to be consistent, with apologies given if unable to attend. Councillors serve on one of the two main committees but are also expected to join sub-committees and working groups for specific projects and undertake research/preparation. Much of our communication takes place via emails – to which councillors are expected to respond! In order to apply you must be 18 years of age or older and a qualifying citizen.

For further information, details of qualification and/or an application form please contact the Parish Clerk, Ruth Clifford, on 01279 813214 or by email to parishcouncil@stansted.net by **5pm on Friday 30 October 2020**.

CRAFTON GREEN HOUSE

After much deliberation the Council has agreed to proceed with a public consultation on the future of Crafton Green House (the former council offices).



By the time you read this article, the full consultation document will be available on our website, on social media and a hard copy available on request from the Parish Council or Library. There will be specific questions to answer and an opportunity to suggest alternative uses which can be demonstrably funded.

NEWS FROM UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Ayub Khan writes:

I want to start by thanking *Save Stansted* as well as Stansted residents for the campaign against the proposed new development in Pennington Lane by Bloor Homes. I have been particularly impressed with the clear concise information and level of detail that has led to over 1500 objections on the Uttlesford planning portal. My own view on this development is that it is totally unsuitable for Stansted and provides no benefit to residents whatsoever.

We continue to hold the administration at Uttlesford to account on issues of planning matters. The disastrous decision to withdraw the local plan earlier this year has given rise to a number of speculative applications across the district. The truth has been laid bare for all to see now that we have no local plan. In order to maintain a five-year land supply we will need to build 1230 new home per year if the Government enact their new "mutant" algorithm. I am not against house building but some of these developments such as Pennington Lane are completely unsuitable. The legacy that the administration will leave behind is one of planning chaos for the whole of Uttlesford. The Government have also muddied the waters by publishing a White Paper setting out radical changes to the Planning system. The collision of local decisions and the Government proposals do not bode well for the District. Locally we continue push UDC to ensure that they maintain the open spaces around the play area at Mountfitchet Green. It is not acceptable that work continues to be delayed.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to the excellent team at Stansted Surgery for their dedication and hard work during this uncertain time. I also want to extend my thanks to residents, local businesses and charities that have adapted to the ever changing government guidance. We still need remain cautious and at the same time stay safe.

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Clerk - Ruth Clifford

Administration Assistant - Emma Philbrick

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 01279 813214 Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri
9.00am-4.00pm, Wed 9.00am-1.00pm

Website: www.stansted.net

LIBRARY

Tuesday 9am-1pm Wednesday 2pm-5pm
Thursday 2pm-6pm Saturday 9.30am-5pm

Tel: 0345 603 7628 and ask for Stansted

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Tom VAN DE BILT	07710 426850 tom@vandebilt.co.uk
Daphne WALLACE-JARVIS	812259 dwwjjw.444@gmail.com

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Ayub KHAN	815800 cllrkhan@uttlesford.gov.uk
Geoffrey SELL	815925 sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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

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

POLICE

PCSO Nikki Morris email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk
Non-emergency 101

The Community Policing Team has its own email address which is monitored daily:
braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

AGED 13 TO 19?? - PLEASE READ

**IT IS TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR SAY.
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- **Represent the views of local young people to decision-makers?**
- **Campaign on issues that are important to young people?**



Help to represent young people in Stansted and make change happen by joining Stansted Youth Council

We are eager to recruit Youth Council members. These individuals will help us mobilise the youth of Stansted in democracy, informing them of the opportunities open to them and tackling key issues they face.



Anyone aged 13 to 19, or up to 25 years old if you have a disability, who lives in, or attends a school, college or youth club in Stansted, or works here, is eligible to apply to join us. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk at parishcouncil@stansted.net



We are delighted with how the children have tackled their time back at school and have adjusted so well to our new 'normal'. The wellbeing of our children has been at the forefront of our minds throughout our first half-term and on 9th October, we took part in the Young Minds #HelloYellow campaign for Mental Health day.



The children arrived at school wearing yellow to show their support and we also raised money for this important charity. They took part in creative activities linked to a yellow sunflower theme, with children utilising their painting skills to create sunflowers that expressed particular emotions. During the day, we launched Zones of Regulation. These are wellbeing tools to help us to understand our emotions and those of others and learn to develop skills of self-regulation (the ability to remain calm or cope with big emotions and adapt and respond appropriately to those emotions). Each class created a display to help the children understand what emotions they might feel in each Zone. Through our PSHE lessons throughout the term, we will be exploring the Zones in more detail.



**Four ZONES used to describe:
WHAT WE ARE FEELING ON THE INSIDE**

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 and you are interested in joining our very special village school, we are holding a Virtual Open Evening on Tuesday 10th November at 7.00pm. At the online event, our headteacher, Mrs Bratley, will take you on a video tour of the school and you will get a chance to meet some of our staff and pupils. To book a place, please contact the school. If you are new to the village and looking for a school place in another year group, please contact the school office.
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Marnie Tait
Deputy Headteacher
Tel: 813370
Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk

Our cut-off for collecting items for the Shoe Boxes is the first week in November. Please contact one of us if you have contributions. The October Link has a list of suitable items, or look on the Teams4u website for ideas. Thank you for supporting this initiative to bring happiness in a box to children for whom this will be the only Christmas present.

Helen Baker Tel: 814865
Eileen Quinn Tel: 812109
Catherine Dean Tel: 813579
Email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

We were sorry that this year we were unable to hold our usual event. However, our daughter Lucy came to the rescue and created a website for a virtual coffee/tea afternoon on Saturday 26th September. There was an amazing response and a total of £875 was raised by donations of cash, cheques and online giving. A lot of people who donated online were also able to add gift aid and so the final benefit to Macmillan will be well over £900! This is a record amount for our event and **Thank You** everyone very much indeed for your support. We hope to see you all again next year.

Christine and Bill Stiles
Tel: 813172



HELPLINE UPDATE

The Helpline phone line (**07704 553727**) has stayed open Monday to Friday 9.00am-4.00pm throughout this awful pandemic. However, our ability to provide transport for medical appointments has been restricted due to the present circumstances. This continues to be the case but we can still pick up prescriptions and shopping on behalf of Stansted residents who are unable to go out themselves and have no one else around to help out. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank the small, dedicated band of Helpline volunteers who have fulfilled as many of the requests received as possible during this difficult time. Their efforts are very much appreciated.



Yvonne Ayres
Helpline Organiser

CORRECTION

In my recent article *Forty Years Ago* (page 23, October issue) I mistakenly wrote that Jimmy Carter was elected US President in 1980, when it was actually Ronald Reagan. Apologies for the error.

Yvonne Ayres

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Walk-In NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance Service Update

Due to Covid-19 restrictions our Stansted sessions are currently suspended but please contact us if you need help
We are offering a limited number of appointments in select venues and may be able to deliver a doorstep visit to those with highest need who are unable to visit our venues

For more information please check our website

www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk or call 01245 496347

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www.walksaroundstortford.org.uk

SUNDAY WALKS: Departing at 10.00am 4-6 miles
Owing to the current situation, please check our website to see if walks will be taking place. Please wear face coverings at the meeting point and have them available during the walk.

Come wind come rain, the BSDFA walk on Sunday 4th October was a great success, and ended with a good meal at The Three Horseshoes. Sorry no photos as it was much too wet. November dates remain questionable. We have received an update from Herts County Council regarding the problems that we highlighted on several public rights of way south of Thorley Parish. Please advise us of any issues you come across there.

Elms Farm

We will continue to check the condition of the new Permissive Paths but do let us know if you encounter any issues. Regarding dog wastebins, they can only be positioned where there is easy road access for collection, and their provision is being considered by Stansted Parish Council. It would be lovely to have some information boards about the marshland area within this path system. I recommend that you read Jonathan Forgham's article in the Bishop's Stortford Independent. The Parish Council will also consider this, but it is all subject to cost. Meantime the Gemmill family are to be immensely thanked for putting in these great new Permissive Paths.



Photograph by Jonathan Forgham

Covid update

Our walks are an outdoor physical activity so we can meet and walk, as long as participants follow social distancing rules at all times. We have also to limit numbers of people to 30. Prior to walking, the leader will take participants' names, addresses and contact details which will only be used if it is necessary to make contact in relation to coronavirus. Please check our website. Keep fit. Keep safe.



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

STANSTED EVENING WI

Many WIs are keeping in touch via Zoom and our magazine, *WI Life*, shows that some have had interesting walks and picnics, whilst they could remain suitably spaced out. 'Spaced out' is defined as 'dazed, not really knowing what's happening'! That seems about right for our situation at the moment! We were glad to be able to use the Recreation Ground for an informal gathering a couple of times. It was so good to know that we are all still there and surviving! We miss being together and hope that some of our activities will be able to start up again soon. Elsenham WI invited us to hear their speaker on Zoom, Simon Gregor, who gave a fascinating talk: *London - An illustrated history from Roman Times to the present day*. We will look into the possibility of having a Zoom talk. There are several speakers willing to do this for groups, all missing their trips out to speak all over the county, and probably our cakes as well. Some members of our craft and natter group have kept the craft alive by knitting squares for blankets. I have at the moment eleven completed blankets waiting for collection and distribution to places of need through Christian Hope International.

We should have been celebrating our 60th Anniversary this October, not as good as Ugly WI which has been going for 100 years; but they no longer have any founder members as we have! The WI is still one of the UK's largest and most influential women's organisations; our magazine indicates that we are attracting younger people and WIs are still being formed even in these difficult times. New WIs have the most inventive names these days; who wouldn't want to be a member of the Tea and Tarts WI? Well me probably, but it does show a lighter side to the dull image the WI has sometimes. When we can meet again in the Day Centre, do come along and help get us going again.



Judy Colliver
 Tel: 812470

STANSTED IS WELL READ

We held our first Zoom book club meeting on a very rainy autumnal evening in October, and although it was not quite the same as meeting face to face we enjoyed the benefits of not getting wet and of being able to wear our comfy slippers! It was so good to finally be able to see each other after many months of communicating by email, and as distance is no object with virtual meetings, we were delighted to be joined by a past member all the way from Yorkshire. This looks like the way forward for us and our next Zoom meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd November** at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *The Photographer of the Lost* by Caroline Scott. This beautiful novel is inspired by real events in the wake of WWI; it is about love and loss, grief and guilt, and the fleeting, fragile moments of life. Do get in touch if you would like to join us; you would be very welcome.



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

business networking

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In October, the trees and shrubs give us a final eruption of colour before their leaves start tumbling down and they go into winter mode. Do not waste these leaves, collect them in a sack and store them; they will turn into leaf mould. If left on your flower beds they can harbour diseases and pests. Do not use leathery leaves, nor those infected with diseases such as scab, black spot and mildew; these are better burned or disposed of. If you do have a bonfire, please check that there are no animals hibernating. Hedgehogs are in decline and are classified as vulnerable to extinction; help them find a place to hibernate, cut a small door through your fences so that they can roam and think yourself lucky that your garden has been chosen as its refuge! The autumn flowers are giving everyone a late show of colour: Michaelmas daisies, Japanese anemones, chrysanthemums, nerines and rudbeckias. Autumn is a busy time of the year as crops are harvested, foliage is cut back, trees and shrubs are pruned, cuttings are taken and plant bulbs are split in readiness for next spring. Plants are fed and the lawn is cut for the final time. Have a walk around your garden with a notebook and jot down *things to do*; it will help you to get organised and it is very pleasing to tick off the jobs, even if they are only little ones like oiling tools, washing the flower pots or helping you plan major jobs for next year by splitting clumps of flowers or moving shrubs during their dormant season etc.



Meetings

Unfortunately we have no news about when Club meetings will resume, but we will let you know when we have been given the go ahead to meet again. In the meantime, enjoy your gardens and walks.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144

THE SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

Things were improving until the imposition of new regulations, but we soldier on! Following our reopening in July we are pleased to see the membership increasing nicely, and the internal refurbishment has gone down very well with our members. Work on the tower dragged on but is now complete. The scaffolding had to be extended upwards as

additional repairs were needed to the top of the tower. We were all delighted to see it finally come down in early October.

We have had to stop entertainment for the moment and we do not know when things will get moving again. Our plan was to move cancelled gigs from 2020 through to 2021 but this is very much based on things being in a better position by then. We have already welcomed Robbie, Freddie, Cher and Elton to entertain members. Who would have thought that we had Robbie and Cher in Stansted on the same day?! There will be news to follow regarding the Halloween Party, the Senior Citizens Christmas lunch and the children's Christmas party but as it stands, they are unlikely to go ahead. In a move to boost our beer sales we have introduced a happy hour for members for a limited time. Between 3.30pm and 4.30pm Monday to Thursday all draught beers and ciders will be reduced by 40p per pint; wines and spirits will be reduced by 20p. So once again, there is no better time to join! The Sunday members' draw and ever-popular meat raffle are up and running again, which now includes a cash prize. We are continuing to show major sporting events including the Premiership, Formula 1 and the IPL so please come along and support your local social club.



Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 8122992
Email: eatmorestilton@gmail.com



www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

We have been pleased to welcome back all our children as we create our bubble, including 23 new children and their families. We have been so impressed with how the children settled back in so quickly. Last term we kept in contact with pupils via weekly Zoom meetings and this certainly seems to have helped their return. We also gave parents daily ideas of things they could do at home via Tapestry (Our online Learning Journal). This term we have been looking at *All about Me*, when the children have considered where they live, who lives in the family and what they look like. Our Forest School sessions continue on Wednesday afternoons, although the pupils now use the school field as it is not recommended that such a large group use public spaces. The children have still been able to explore the natural environment and all types of weather. We are now looking forward to planning what will be a different Christmas this year at preschool, but still have some exciting things to organise.

Our qualified, experienced team are pleased to be able to take children from two years old and offer up to 30 hours per week. The sessions we offer are: 9.00am-noon, noon-3.00pm, and 9.00am-3.00pm. If you are interested in a place please contact us. We are currently taking registrations for September 2021. We also have a small waiting list for this academic year as we only have very limited sessions left.

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



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Nature Notes

It is early October and I went for a short walk today to look for signs of approaching autumn. Sure enough, I soon came upon an impressive necklace of red berries of the black bryony, and, of course, the pink spindle berries.



There was buzzing coming from the bushes and closer inspection revealed wasps dining on the nectar in the ivy blossom. Our changing climate and irregular seasons confuse some plants such as a blackberry bush which bore full blossom and ripe blackberries at the same time. As well as the autumn fruits there is still a surprising variety of yellow, purple, pink and white flowers to see along the hedgerows and field edges, so take advantage of sunny autumn days to go out and enjoy them.



www.stanstedbusinessforum.co.uk

It has been a difficult time for us as we have been unable to hold our monthly breakfast meetings at Linden House due to Covid-19 restrictions. However, we are looking to get together and have meetings on Zoom as there is so much information to share with each other about businesses, and how members of the forum can look at collaborating with each other in the future. James Garrett from HNE Media and Martin Budzinski from Leaflet Deliver UK/Voucher packs are on our management team; they will be contacting members to look at arranging future Zoom meetings. We recently discussed the possibility of having a get together for a Christmas lunch with appropriate social distancing and, of course, this depends on any future Government guidelines.

Our local schools are members of the Business Forum; Forest Hall School has celebrated the positive GCSE grades that students at the school have achieved. These were based on work they had already completed and ability they had proven in class, coursework and mock exams. Congratulations to all those students who have gained life-long skills to support them as they progress on to the next stage of their lives. If you are a new business who is interested in participating in future Zoom meetings then

please contact Peter James on 813318 or email: Peter.James@murdochsestateagents.co.uk if you would like more information about the Business Forum.



Iris Evans



WINE AWARDS 2020

It is that time of the year when the Decanter World Wine Awards 2020 are announced and we will start to see Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Commendation award stickers on wine bottles in the supermarkets. I have become a little disillusioned recently with these awards as they keep adding even higher levels such as Platinum and 'Best in Show' meaning the lower levels such as 'Commendation' meant very little. This year they still have these levels of winners but the numbers of wines awarded at Platinum and Gold seem greatly reduced and many of those that are included are in the £15-20 range or higher, as you would expect. It is great therefore when something with a gold medal is at an everyday price, so here are two Platinum and three Gold winners (four reds and one white) to seek out in ascending price order:

- Asda extra special Douro red, Portugal, 2017 (Gold) £6.50; traditional port grapes used to make a delicious wine at a great price. Expect lush blackcurrants and plums with a savoury core and smooth tannins
- Vina Indomita Zarper Gran Reserva Malbec, Bio Bio, Chile 2019 (Gold) £8.25 Morrisons 100% Malbec. Deep damson and menthol with a savoury edge, great with steak
- Cederberg Waitrose No.1 Syrah, South Africa 2018 (Gold) £8.50; raspberry, blackberry and smoky aromas followed by plush mouth filling sweet fruit
- Vinalba Reserve Malbec Touriga Nacional, Uco Valley, Argentina, 2019 (Platinum) £9-13 Tesco/Majestic 80% Malbec and 20% Touriga (the port grape); this has long been a favourite of mine, aromas of blackcurrant and coffee/mocca, lovely fruit, refined tannins and a long finish. What's not to like?
- Paco and Lola Albarino, Spain 2019 (Platinum) £12-15 from Sainsburys/Tesco: fresh, vivid and pungent white with a long finish. Outstanding quality. Happy hunting.



Paul Wilkinson



RECYCLE INK, STAMPS AND TOOTHBRUSHES



We are now collecting original (not remanufactured or own brand) ink cartridges, postage stamps, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag). Although the churches where our collecting boxes are situated are still closed during the week, you can leave items in the box outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Please note that we do not take laser toner cartridges. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer

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Light up a Life 2020

Light up a Life is our Christmas time celebration of everything that the Hospice stands for: joining together with families from across our community in honour of their loved ones. Candles are lit as we remember, with every shining light representing the life and memories of a loved one. We know how much these annual services mean to so many families across West Essex and East Herts, and we are doing our very best to make arrangements so that they can take place safely. We hope to still hold these unique services that our supporters know and love, albeit in a different way due to Covid-19 restrictions. If you would like an invitation, please register your interest on 773750 or email: fund@stclarehospice.org.uk.



Care to play?

Our lottery has over 15,000 regular weekly entries and last year our players contributed an incredible £450,000 to fund our care for people facing death, dying and loss, which we offer free of charge to the people of West Essex and East Herts. Playing the Lottery is easy and it makes a real difference to the people we support. If you would like to be in with a chance of winning one of 24 weekly cash prizes, you can play for as little as £1, which will get you one entry into each weekly draw. We have a top prize of £1,000 guaranteed every week, as well as the chance to win our rollover of up to an amazing £10,000! Sign-up on our website or call our lottery team on 773730.

Rebecca Cussens
Communications Manager
Tel: 07795 568742

Email: rebecca.cussens@stclarehospice.org.uk

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Ugley Village Hall

Saturday 21st November

10.00am-12 noon

Unless Covid-19 regulations change, we hope to hold the market again in the car park and Village Hall.

All the usual great stalls

For info contact: Susan Bone 814052
Email: ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com
Website: ugleyvillage.org.uk

By the time you read this Covid-19 will have been with us for almost eight months. Every one of us has been affected by it in some way. How much longer it will remain with us we do not know. I am sorry to say that it is now highly unlikely that we will be able to hold our Christmas event at the mill and sadly Santa will be unable to visit us with presents for the children. Perhaps Easter will bring better times with some fun with Easter eggs and other surprises. This will depend on us all playing our part by sticking to the Government guidelines and staying Covid-19 free. In the meantime let us look on the bright side and take comfort from the words of our NHS centenarian Captain Sir Thomas Moore "Tomorrow will be a good day". A big thank you to everyone who has paid their Windmill membership fee and to anyone who is thinking of doing so, give me a ring please.

Stay safe and stay well.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

A FEW STANSTED BYGONES

In last month's edition of The Link, Bee's Daughter mentioned rose hip syrup in her Nature Notes. It reminded me that some of my stuff was stored in an old rose hip syrup carton.



The photograph shows some of the bits which were inside: a half pint milk bottle from Levey's Bentfield End Farm, a caddy spoon commemorating the 250th Anniversary of Green's Stores, a bottle of Essence of Peppermint from Ecclestone's Chemists, a bottle of Camphorated Oil from Prosser's Chemists, a Norman's stone ginger beer bottle and a large-scale map showing the proposed development of Standed Airport.

Tony Wellings

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STANSTED HALL & ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The Club held a successful golf day in September with 44 players attending. It was won by Club member Peter Fitzpatrick by quite a margin. Work in and around the pavilion and nets has been completed and 'put to bed'. In normal times the Club would be looking forward to two fundraising quizzes and a presentation evening during the winter months. However these look very unlikely this year unless we conjure up a 'Zoom' quiz!

It would appear that Uttlesford has a useful amount of money to improve sporting facilities. This will be interesting over the next few months to see where and how this money is allocated. Hopefully the district councillors will serve Elsenham and Stansted well. The indoor cricket league is suspended at the moment which will disappoint some of our players who like to play all year. This probably means that they will be looking at the IPL on television which does not help with fitness! Stay well and stay safe.



David Brown
Tel: 831011 or 007788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com

STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

With the end of the 2020 season, we look back to what has been: all leagues cancelled due to Covid-19 with restrictions on us all. Our world turned upside down, but there have been many positives for the Club. We introduced a new doubles competition, which has been so popular that we shall run it again in 2021 and beyond. There has been a new sense of team spirit, and much more. We are a very lucky club in many ways; we are small compared to other clubs but we are very close. With our current membership we have teams in five different leagues, plus mixed teams at the weekends, this means that every single member could play in at least two matches each week of the season. It is a good way to keep active and fit, and if you like to be out in the garden, we have a small garden and baskets that always need attention.

We are now starting to prepare for what 2021 throws at us, hopefully it will be better than in 2020. For the next season, we would like to welcome more members and players, both ladies and men. It is an ideal way of getting out in the sun, or rain, for an evening or a weekend afternoon, coupled with lively banter as well as tea and cakes. If you think that the bowling might suit you and you are keen to get involved in helping with the gardens and surroundings, or doing a bit of painting, plus have decent broom skills, please get in contact, we shall be happy to show you around. If you are thinking about joining a bowls club then please give Stansted a try; we are a small and friendly club, and we look forward to welcoming you.



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



Stansted Tennis Club
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Club Sessions

Social tennis sessions, open to all members and guests (paying a £3 visitor fee) are taking place on Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30am-noon, Wednesdays 7.00pm-10.00pm and Sundays 10.00am-1.00pm. There is also a ladies' night which is on the third Monday of every month from 6.30pm-10.00pm.

Coaching

Group coaching sessions for adult and junior members and non-members continue with Ollie Toms, please contact him on 07917 652014 or email: olliestennis@gmail.com for further details. Please go to our website for more information about the Club and details of how to join.

Fiona Kelly
Committee member
Tel: 07949 623484
Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

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

Although our FA Cup campaign for this season resulted in a defeat at Southern Premier Division side Peterborough Sports 4-2, the team equalled the best run in the Club's history in reaching the second qualifying round. Although all were disappointed to lose such a fixture, the performance showed the spirit and potential the team management have assembled and this certainly bodes well for the season ahead; still, the prize money over the run more than compensated for exiting the competition. In the league we still continue to be up in the top half of the table, including an exciting win over our local rivals Saffron Walden in front of the biggest support we have had at Hargrave Park in a number of seasons, which demonstrated that local football at our level is still as important in these difficult times.

This coming month we enter our second FA competition; this time it is the Vase, having been exempt from previous rounds. Our veterans continue their excellent form and are certainly showing why they are regarded as one of the best over 45s sides competing in the league. Currently top of their league, they have a local derby away at Newport Veterans in the first round of the Essex County FA Veterans Trophy to look forward to on 7th November. Upcoming November fixtures at Hargrave Park are:

7 th	League	Woodford Town
21 st	League	Ilford



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Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St John's Road and Area Association	Leila Riddell Tel: 07770 955830
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie, Hon Secretary Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Donna Ring Tel: 731752 Email: skr@skr.org.uk
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 812348 Email: vcl.essexwest- uttlesfordadminhub@nhs.net
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Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433		
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Vivian Falk Tel: 01799 513128 Email: vivian@brackendalehouse.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School 506997	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Roberts Tel: 078648 21905		

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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	Tuition (ages 4 - 11)	12	Personal Services Fresh Leaf (Hypnotherapy) 10
Electrical	Albury Electrical Services	24	Glynis Cheers (Hypnotherapy) 10
	CK Electrical	24	Stansted Psychotherapy 10
	Stansted Electric	24	Plumbing & Heating Harpers Plumbing & Heating OBC
Estate Agent	Murdochs	IBC	JDW Gas Heating Specialist 24
Financial	Mansell & Co Accountants	IBC	Jones (Plumbing & Heating) 24
	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	IFC	M Lloyd and Son 24
Furniture & Restoration	Furniture by Design	34	Newman's Home Services 24
	Peter Worby Antiques Restoration	34	Orion Heating 24
Fitness	Flexible Strength	4	P Knight Plumbing 24
	Back to Basics (Pilates)	4	Stansted Gas Services 24
	CJ Fitness	4	Printing Chogou Printing & Embroidery 12
	Stansted Yoga Lounge	4	CZ Design & Print 10
Food & Drink	Hadham Brewery	OBC	Property Maintenance Do-It-4U 32
	Lams Chinese Takeaway	IBC	Fairweather Windows IFC
	Mayflower Chinese Takeaway	IBC	Finch and Son OBC
	The Dog & Duck	28	Herts & Essex Window Doctor 32
Garden Services	Alsa Wood Farm	6	Retailers Paris Legore (Flowers & Gifts) IFC
	D Honour & Son (Landscapes)	OBC	Squires (Gifts, Plants and Cards) IBC
Including Christmas Trees	Illuminating Gardens	30	Soft Furnishings & Sewing Stort Blinds IFC
	Gill Owen & Colin Frost	28	Teach me to Sew 12
	Greenscroft Fencing	30	Sport & Leisure Golf World IFC
	Langthorns Plantery	28	Stansted Social Club 10
	Mowtivated	28	Tree Surgeons All Aspects Tree Services 28
	The Secret Gardener	28	Tree Management Company 28
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	26	Uppercut Trees 28
	J Day & Son (Stonemason)	26	

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