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Front cover:

The Eco Girls sale in Blythwood Gardens.

Photo by Elizabeth Newton enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

The Link is published by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and delivered free to nearly 3700 homes and businesses in Stansted. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £11.00 per year, plus postage. Each edition is also available on our website.

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

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

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EDITORIAL



I have to admit that I particularly enjoy this edition of The Link as it has some really unusual items in its pages, such as a reminder of the knife sharpener on p29 and a long-standing mystery on p19 which I hope one of you linguists can answer. We have the creativity and thoughtfulness of the five girls which grace our front cover this month: so young and enterprising they are. We have the serious issue of Bloor Homes' appeal against the refusal of Uttlesford Council to grant planning permission to tear up Pennington Lane (see below). The enchanting lane, shown in the photo accompanying the article, says it all really; how can anyone be heartless enough to destroy such beauty? I hope that Save Stansted Village will benefit from as many people's support as possible.

Many congratulations and thanks to the Stop Stansted Expansion group for all their hard work over the past 19 years to prevent excessive growth of the airport; they have succeeded on so many fronts, as you will see on p31. They are a dedicated and tireless group of individuals who are rebranding SSE; from now on it will be Stansted Airport Watch, with a new focus and a change of some of the key players.

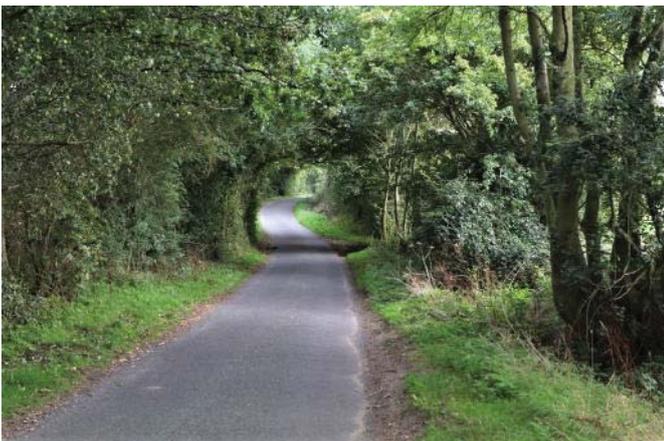
Enjoy the new easing of restrictions as they roll out and have a wonderful June, with lots of hugs.

PENNINGTON LANE PLANNING UPDATE

www.savestansted.co.uk

Planning Appeal Inquiry Confirmed - Support Needed

Following the refusal of planning permission by Uttlesford District Council (UDC), the Planning Inspectorate has confirmed that this will go to a Public Inquiry on 13th July for five days. Save Stansted Village (SSV) combined with Stansted Parish Council will act as a 'rule 6' party, to represent the community at the inquiry. The inquiry location is to be confirmed, and we encourage anybody who feels strongly about this issue to attend, all or in part. Our efforts to fight this application have stepped up. We have employed a planning consultant and are looking to engage a landscape



architect, as much of the objection will revolve around the harm to our countryside. We have engaged with UDC planning to ensure our strategies are aligned and we are preparing our Statement of Case and Proofs of Evidence. Many in the community are engaged with supporting this activity and we thank them for their help.

What can you do to help?

Please sign our petition on the website. If you have any photographs you think would be helpful for our case, for

example traffic congestion and flooding, please email them to us. If they contain pictures of people, they should only be taken in a public place. Most importantly, please support our fundraising activity. So far, we have raised over £8k and are targeting £20k to fund our expert witnesses and planning consultant. We know it is a difficult time to ask for money but these resources are vital to give us the best chance of success. Funds are managed through the Parish Council and online transfers can be made directly to Stansted Parish Council, Sort Code 20-36-98, Account Number 20147168. Cash or cheques made payable to Stansted Parish Council can be sent or hand-delivered to SSV Campaign, c/o Stansted Parish Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ. Tel: 813214. Thank you once again for all your continued support.

James Hogg
Email: savestansted@gmail.com



www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk

We are continuing to provide a Covid-safe service for NHS hearing aid help, cleaning and re-tubing. Appointments are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Stansted Free Church Hall, Chapel Hill. A doorstep service is available for those who are housebound or shielding. All appointments must be booked in advance; please call 01245 496347, text: 07950 406173 or email: info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk. We also provide an information, advice and guidance service to people across Essex living with hearing loss, and this is currently being delivered from our Resource Centre in Chelmsford by telephone, video call, text message or email.

Susan Butler
Service Coordinator
Hearing Aid Support

SING AND SIGN

www.bit.ly/singandsignhomepage



STANSTED IN BLOOM

www.facebook.com/stanstedinbloom

Playing Catch-up: how to super-charge your Baby or Toddler's Development after Lockdown

As we emerge from national lockdown, after months of staying at home, those of us that became new parents just before or during the pandemic year will naturally be asking the question *how can I help my baby to adjust to 'normal' life?* Much of the answer to that question comes down to two things: socialisation and communication. When babies can adequately express themselves, they feel more confident in making friends, dealing with unfamiliar people and situations and comprehending the world around them. Many people think language development begins when a baby says his or her first words, but it actually begins in the womb, with sound. Rhythm and pitch, eye contact, facial expression and gesture are the building blocks of communication. Helping your child to attach meaning to a word or phrase by adding a gesture, like waving when you say the word *hello* will fast-track their language abilities, and increase their confidence. Here are some quick tips for super-charging your little one's development:

Up to 6 months

- When talking to your baby, hold him/her close and make eye contact
- As you feed, change and bathe your baby, chat about what you are doing
- Sing to your baby
- Repeat the sounds your baby makes back to them
- Talk in a sing-song voice

Between 6 and 12 months

- Name and point out things you can both see
- Read books together
- Play games like peek-a-boo
- Use baby signs, as they will your child to remember and associate words with actions.

Sing and Sign courses have been developed with the help of speech and language therapists, with two age-appropriate courses which follow recommendations for supporting early development and communication. I have just started running classes at the Free Church Hall on Monday mornings; for more information or to book a space please contact me or visit my website.

Alex Khan

Tel: 07876 247358

Email: alexandra@singandsign.co.uk

Sing and Sign
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bit.ly/singandsignhomepage

One of the priorities of the group is to raise our profile and get more visible support. We are trying to engage more of the business community and hopefully you will have spotted our *We're Supporting Stansted in Bloom* window stickers around the village. Our most prominent business supporters so far have been Sworders Auction House and Liz Lake Associates, the landscape architects. We would love to go get more businesses on board so we can show we have the support of the community. It is also important when we apply for grants from different providers that we can demonstrate that residents support what we are trying to do.

How you can help:

- Contact us with a message of support
- Make a donation and display a *We're Supporting Stansted in Bloom* window sticker
- Volunteer your time to do a bit of community gardening
- Enter our garden competition
- Enter our photographic competition
- Follow us on Facebook



The Stansted in Bloom Committee

Hopefully by the time you read this, both the Knight signs will be back in place after their restoration work has been completed and the two entry points to Stansted on the B1383 will be a credit to the village. At the time of writing, there is a fantastic display of tulips on Silver Street near Blythwood Gardens, and in the next few weeks more work will have been undertaken to improve the High Lane entry point. Amherst Homes have agreed to help improve the grassed area but we have encountered a few bureaucratic challenges from Essex Highways who own the land and whose permission we need to get the project finished. I would like to think that by the time you read this the problems will have been resolved. See our Facebook page for more details.



Trevor Lloyd

Tel: 07739 428352

Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com



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LET'S TALK STANSTED!

www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

Rehabilitating the sense of smell and helping the memory

The sense of smell can be lost for various reasons, not least Covid. The loss of smell can also be an early sign of dementia or Parkinson's disease. The rehabilitation of smell involves working with sight, hearing and memory. You will need a torch or lamp, earbuds or an electric toothbrush. To begin, get three different smells from the kitchen, such as lemon peel, mint and vanilla. Shut your eyes, cover one nostril and sniff each one. Then change nostril and compare. It is common for one nostril to have a better sense of smell than the other. We are going to rehabilitate the nostril with the weakest smell. Cover the better nostril, then position a light source forwards and above the same eye as the closed nostril. If rehabilitating the right nostril, illuminate from above the left. Sniff away. If there is no improvement, we can try adding sound to one ear or vibrating with your electric toothbrush on your jawbone. Try different sides to see which helps. You can combine these rehab exercises in other scenarios. When talking to someone on the phone, hold the phone to the ear that helped, and position the light as before, with a sprig of mint or similar to hand.



On its route through the brain, smells are identified in the region that handles speech and vocabulary, and from there into the hippocampus, a major player in memory. Therefore, to further improve smell, combine it with memory by listing all the fruits and vegetables you can, starting with a letter: B, for example. Aside from broader health concerns, it is worth cultivating your sense of smell because it improves your appreciation of food, and abilities as a cook.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Trainer
Tel: 816430

BRITISH RED CROSS



Open Gardens

Gaston House boasts stunning gardens, which will be open on **Sunday 27th June** 2.00pm-5.00pm to raise funds for the Red Cross. Teas will be available and entry is £5. The gardens are at Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury CM22 7QS. We hope you will join us; a glorious sunny June day would be a huge bonus! We are sorry, but no dogs are allowed.

Christine Stiles
Tel: 813172



SUPPORT GROUPS FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Saffron Walden Dementia Café

Our weekly café re-opens on **Wednesday 7th July** 10.00am-noon at our new location in Fairycroft House, Audley Road, and there is onsite parking. Are you caring for or living with someone affected by dementia or Alzheimer's or have you lost a loved one and would like to chat? Then pop along and enjoy support, companionship, activities, information, advice and refreshments. For information please call 07900 123917 or email: saffronwaldendementiacafe@gmail.com.

Action for Family Carers, Dunmow

The dementia activity group has reopened in Great Canfield Village Hall on Mondays 10.00am-12.30pm and 1.00pm-3.30pm and new members are welcome. Activities include participating in a variety of mentally and physically stimulating activities such as seated exercise and indoor bowling, as well as reminiscence discussions and games, often including music. For more information call Clare Savva on 0300 770 8090 or email: clare.savva@affc.org.uk.

Jennifer Jarvis

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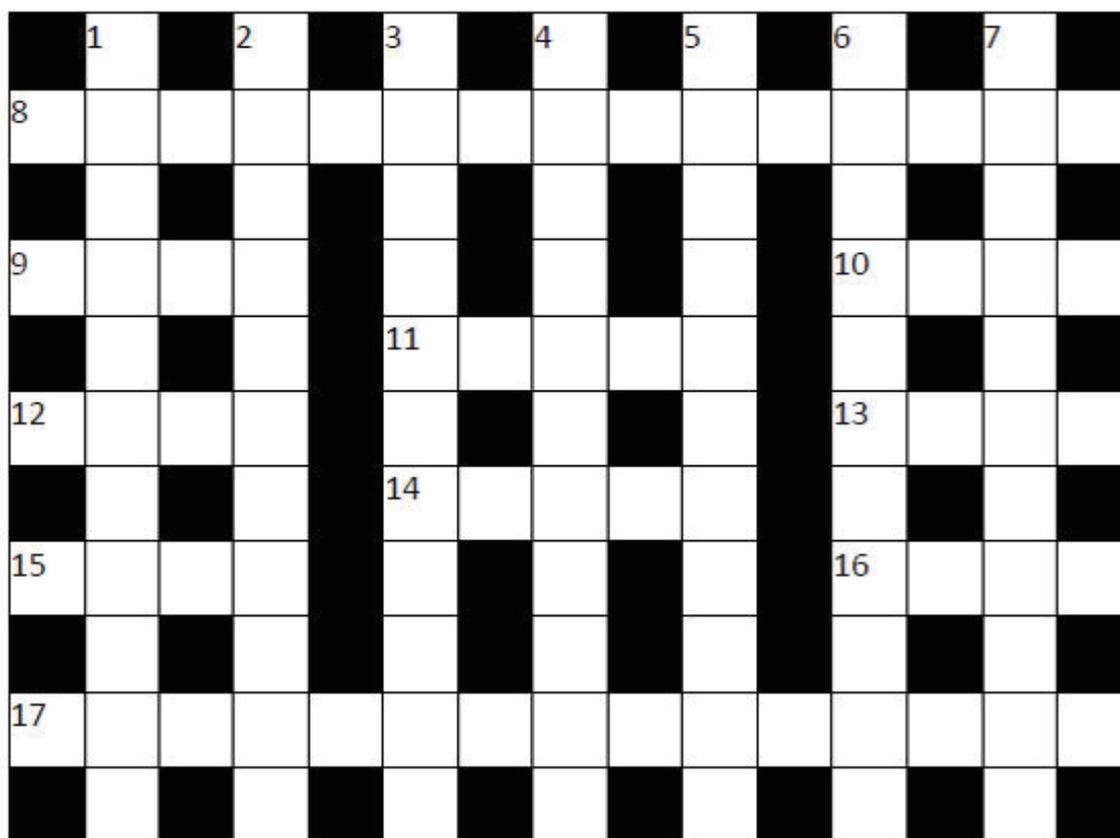
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FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 13

ACROSS

- 8 Lloyd-Webber musical for female solo (4,2,2,1,6)
- 9 It lead the shepherds to Bethlehem (4)
- 10 U S State in a hut (4)
- 11 Milan football team, or put in a grave (5)
- 12 Road, neon or omen? (4)
- 13 Rotate (4)
- 14 One from Baghdad (5)
- 15 Unit of electrical current (4)
- 16 Three playing together (4)
- 17 Lloyd-Webber musical on the Highway (6,9)

DOWN

- 1 Art of throwing one's voice, you dummy! (11)
- 2 One who plays a wind instrument (11)
- 3 Official paper proof of achievement (11)
- 4 Unlikely passion for someone, it's a bit embarrassing (11)
- 5 Firmly, authoritatively (11)
- 6 Wanting to know more (11)
- 7 Italian police (11)

PRINCE PHILIP QUIZ

Since he died, there have been many hours of television and many columns of print about Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Have you been paying attention?

- 1 On which Greek island was the prince born?
- 2 Where is his final resting place?
- 3 Philip was born the Prince of Greece and where else?
- 4 In which year was he made a British prince?
- 5 How old was Princess Elizabeth when she began corresponding with Philip?
- 6 In which year did the couple marry?
- 7 What was Philip's rank when he gave up his Naval career in 1952?
- 8 All Philip's siblings were sisters. How many?
- 9 Name one of them
- 10 With which organisation did the Prince carry out his last official engagement before retiring in 2017?
- 11 In 1947, Philip's family changed its name to Mountbatten. What had it been until then?
- 12 Which famous mountaineer was the first administrator of the DofE Award Scheme?

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 33



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Mental health, community, well-being and the enjoyment of learning remains our top priority. We are working with the children, parents and local community to ensure that we not only make a difference to the lives of those around us, but foster a genuine love of being back together at school and in the classroom, whether that classroom is within a physical building or the beautiful surrounding environment we are fortunate enough to enjoy.



On 25th March, we held our termly MDAY, promoting positive relationships and mental health. Children took part in organised activities ranging from Forest Schools and fire making, meditative walking, forest bathing and cooking marshmallows. They also learned how to make Gratitude Journals and took part in a challenging team building obstacle and assault course to promote the connection between a healthy body and a healthy mind. Whole class guitar sessions, in which music teacher Mr Free enabled the children from Year 2 to Year 6 to play the guitar together, provided an opportunity to focus on the arts. Music plays an important part in developing a healthy mind and is a focus of our school curriculum. Forest School sessions run each week, with land kindly lent to the school by Charles and Petronella Humphries. Learning through the natural environment develops the children's physical, social, cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social and spiritual well-being.

Hannah Wheatcroft
Headteacher
Tel: 771339

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next Zoom meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 1st June** at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce. This is a novel about people on the cusp of change and about having the courage to undergo personal transformation. Set in 1988, it follows record-shop owner Frank, who has a rare gift for music therapy; he can find the perfect piece to remedy any emotional or psychological woes his customers are suffering from. We all need music in our lives so I am sure this book will hit the right note! Please do get in touch if you would like to join us, a warm welcome will await.



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



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

After an unusual April weather-wise when it was cool and dry, it was not a total surprise that when May arrived everything changed: rain, sleet, hail and gale force winds. Mother Nature is certainly keeping gardeners on their toes! Despite these small set-backs the gardens are becoming more colourful by the day. This is a busy time of the year, tidying up the flower borders, giving the lawn some TLC and starting a mowing regime; as well as sowing summer vegetable and flower seeds for potting-on and planting out once all fear of frost has gone. If you did not have time in the autumn, perennial plants can also be split in spring and replanted around the garden. Many shrubs appreciate a trim too, especially buddleia and the dog-woods. If you need inspiration, you could visit an Open Garden. As the lockdown restrictions are being lifted, many of the National Garden Scheme gardens, the Royal Horticultural Society gardens, National Trust and English Heritage properties are re-opening; but do check their websites as you may have to book a slot. As the spring flowers are handing over the baton to summer plants, why not take time to sit, chill out and enjoy your garden.

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 478144



1ST STANSTED BEAVERS

After a year of online scouting, 1st Stansted Beavers are back meeting face to face. We have been running some outside activities such as archery and cooking on fires. Several new Beavers have been welcomed into our group and some of them have now been invested. The Beavers have worked so hard during lockdown working on badges and completing challenges; they have also taken part in virtual camps.



Thanks to this hard work two of our Beavers have gained their Chief Scout Bronze Award. This is the highest award you can gain, learning skills for life; we are very proud of them. We are very excited to be scouting again and looking forward to the year ahead. If you would like any information about scouting in Stansted please get in touch.

Angela Madigan
Beaver Scout Leader
Tel: 07908 303281

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TWICHELS OR GINNELS?

I call them *twitchels* but others call the many narrow passageways or alleys in Stansted *ginnels*. Apparently both terms are more commonly used in the north of England and have slightly different meanings. A *twitchel* is a narrow path between hedges and a *ginnel* refers to a narrow passage or alley between buildings, especially terraced houses. Can you work out whereabouts in Stansted these *twitchels* or *ginnels* are?

Yvonne Ayres

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photographs by Yvonne Ayres

Answers on page 25




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ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

St Clare Wills Month

It may come as a surprise that more than half UK adults admit that they do not have a will. This June we are holding our annual Wills Month, reminding people that writing a will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure that your family is cared for and that it is never too soon to start thinking about it. From 1st to 30th June you are able to make or amend your will for a suggested donation to the Hospice.



Charlotte Durham, our Wills Month organiser, said: "After the past year, we can all see the importance of having a will. We never know what is round the corner, but your family is the most important thing in the world, and writing a will is one thing we can all do to make sure they are cared for in the future. We are delighted that we have six participating solicitors' firms who have kindly volunteered their time so that supporters can make or amend their will in return for a donation to the Hospice. This will help to raise vital funds for us, so there has never been a better time to do it." Suggested minimum donations are: £150 single, £200 double and £85 for an amended will. A donation of £150 pays for ten counselling sessions for a bereaved family member, friend or loved one, delivered by a qualified counsellor. Our bereavement support and counselling can be vital in supporting someone to face their grieving journey. To enquire about participating solicitors or book an appointment, contact Corporate Fundraiser, Charlotte Durham email: charlotte.durham@stclarehospice.org.uk or call 773753. For more information visit our website.

Open Gardens

This summer, our perennially popular Open Gardens event is back for its 27th year and will be taking place safely in person, after last year's event had to take place virtually. Kindly sponsored by Land Sheriffs, the event will take place on weekends throughout June and July, giving green-fingered fans more than a dozen gardens to explore in aid of the Hospice. Horticultural enthusiasts will get a chance to explore some of the best-kept green spaces in West Essex and East Hertfordshire, from the villages of Thornwood and Hastingwood, to the gardens of Harlow, Epping and Loughton. Entry is £3 and payable on the gate. Tea, cakes and lunches are available in many of the gardens. For details contact Dan Bailey email: dan.bailey@stclarehospice.org.uk or call 773738.

Rebecca Cussens
Communications Manager
Tel: 07795 568742

Email: rebecca.cussens@stclarehospice.org.uk



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

It is so lovely to see so many of you signing in the visitor book in church. We count all footfall inside the church and it is so very important to us. Thank you to you all for taking the time to do this. Those of you who are friends of the church should have received a newsletter from me in late May.

Don't forget *The Secret Garden* performance by thisismytheatre on **Saturday 21st August** at 1.00pm in the church. Tickets are available from www.thisismytheatre.com or by telephone 07732 253311. By buying in advance you will help us with seating to get you all the best views. Our first Open Sunday will be **4th July** and I will be in church with the kettle on ready to make you a cuppa. I look forward to seeing you all again for a catch-up.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the April draw:

£100 No 179 Paul Salmon
£ 50 No 139 Alan Corbishley
£ 25 No 154 Kathy West

The draw for June will be held on **27th June** 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

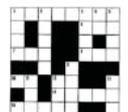
CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

8. Tell me on a Sunday 9. Star 10. Utah 11. Inter
12. Sign 13. Spin 14. Iraqi 15. Volt 16. Trio
17. Sunset Boulevard.

Down

1. Ventriloquy 2. Clarinetist 3. Certificate
4. Infatuation 5. Assertively 6. Inquisitive
7. Carabinieri



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

On the day that Prince Philip died, my next-door neighbour, who is in charge of the flag at St John's, knocked and asked me if I wanted it at half-mast. I said that I did, and so it remained in a lowered position until the day after the funeral, when it was returned once more to the top of the pole. The church has now done its observance (including a memorial service in the week leading up to the funeral) and finds itself returning to business as usual. The national observance too has largely come to an end; Prince Philip's death has quietly slipped down the news agenda and lost much of its grip on the public consciousness.

And yet, for those closest to Prince Philip, the process of grieving is very far from over. Most people have moved on but mourning for the Queen and other members of the royal family does not end at the same time as the public attention and sympathy. It is a sad truth that for many people, their grief endures longer than the rest of the world's attention span. When initial condolences cease, the subsequent stages of loss can often be draining, lonely and unsupported. Of course, immediate expressions of sympathy are important, but what has the real power to heal are the ongoing relationships and the ongoing systems of support that come about through strong community. We might not be able to invite a grieving queen into our community life but fostering habits of enduring compassion and concern *is* within our gift – and it is something that makes us stronger not only as the people of Stansted, but as a country too.



Rev'd Colin Fairweather
St John's Church



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
Including Church St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
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Email: revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

Assistant Curate Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145
Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

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

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

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www.sttheresastansted.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
Noon *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

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Clair Rava
Parish Administrator
Email: stansted@dioceseofbrentwood.org

From St John's Registers

April

Funerals
15th Richard Sedgebeer - at Cam Valley Crematorium
29th Sheila Mary Sarah Funnell - service at St John's followed by interment at Stansted Cemetery



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

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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 June worship in the church

6th 10.30am Denis Walker
13th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
20th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch
27th 10.30am Rev'd Roy Fowler - last service
Services will also continue on Sundays at 10.30am on Zoom.

As you may recall reading in the April Link, our minister Roy retires at the end of July, and the service on 27th June will be his last one with us in the church. We are part of a group of four churches, and there will be a joint service of farewell with all four churches in July. That service will probably be on Zoom if we are still required to socially distance in churches, as none of our churches is large enough to hold all four congregations.

Roy has been our minister for seven years, and in addition to leading our worship and looking after our pastoral needs, he has been very supportive of The Place on the Hill, as shown in the photograph below, visiting regularly and helping to lead special sessions at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.



Roy was also on the steering committee of the Churches Together Messy Church, sharing his experiences of other Messy churches in his previous appointments, and he has been a regular helper since it started in 2015. We wish him and his wife Christine, who has also taken services at our church, a very happy, well-deserved retirement.

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



Mike and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059



Contact Howard and Ros Page
Tel: 810813
Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com

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

We continue to meet on Tuesday evenings and Sundays, offering a combination of modern worship music, Bible-based talks/discussion and prayer, in-person or online (or a combination of both), in accordance with Government guidance. While we are hopeful of resuming in-person meetings after 21st June, venues are not yet confirmed, so please email or ring us for the latest updates on what is running. If you would like to know more about finding recommended online church services which you can access anytime, or the Alpha Course online, please just contact us. We are also happy to receive prayer requests at any time.

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

Lettings Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
Email: yvonne-wood@outlook.com

Sunday Worship

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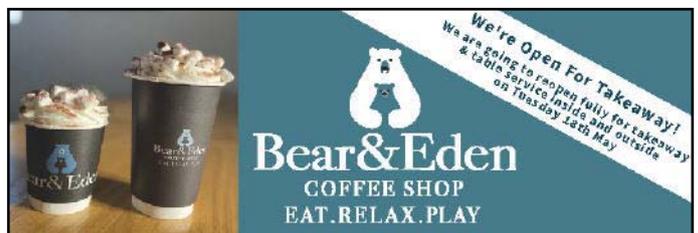
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SOCIAL CLUB

www.smcs.uk.com

By the time you read this we will be open again and on the road to recovery. It has been a long time coming and we are looking forward to seeing friends old and new again. We have extended the membership renewal date until 25th June. The cost remains the same, and at only £20 this represents excellent value. If you have not been able to pop in yet, please note our initial opening hours.

Monday to Thursday 2.00pm-10.00pm
Friday 2.00pm-11.00pm
Saturday and Sunday Noon-11.00pm

The opening hours may change depending on the number of people attending the Club. We have a lot of fabulous entertainment lined up for the rest of the year. Keep checking the Facebook page and website for further details. The ever-popular Meat Raffle started again on 23rd May so make sure you head down soon and grab your tickets!



Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 812992
Email: eatmorestilton@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

U3A day is **Wednesday 2nd June**. To mark this event, a history walk around Stansted entitled *Walking in the Footsteps of the Victorian Gardeners of Stansted Hall* will be led by Kate Birbeck. Details were sent to all members by email, and as numbers will be limited, places are being given on a first come, first served basis. However, if there is a lot of interest, we hope to organise further similar walks later this year. All being well, the Government's wished-for end of lockdown on 21st June will be followed by a social meeting on **Thursday 24th June** from 1.30pm in St. John's Hall with tea, cakes and the opportunity to chat and catch up. We look forward to seeing all members.

A full programme of speakers for the rest of 2021 has been booked. On Thursday 15th July we look forward to Alan Hayes giving his talk entitled *Baby Boom Generation and Nostalgia*. On Saturday 17th July we have arranged a morning seminar when Jeremy Batch will be presenting *The Story of Navigation, 2000 BC to 2020 AD*. Look out for Sally Rich's newsletter for more information about this and of the various groups that will start up very soon. There are still a few rooms left in The Royal Hotel in Weymouth from 20th to 24th September. Visits to Mottifont Abbey, Swanage Steam Railway, Corfe Castle, Dorchester and Bridport are included. The cost is £439 excluding National Trust entry fees. Please call the U3A mobile number below and leave a message for Nigel if you are interested.

Anne White
Tel: 07874 385541

ECO GIRLS CHARITY STALL

The **Eco Girls** are Ella Higley, Phoebe Callan, Tilly Flux, Penny Zancarli, and Chloe Newton and are all either 9 or 10 years old. They put their Easter break from school to great use by raising an amazing £158.83 for the *World Land Trust* charity by selling their homemade cakes, fudge and crafts, including bookmarks, greetings cards and jellyfish from a *drive sale* in Blythwood Gardens on 7th April. Huge thanks to all the villagers who passed by on that chilly afternoon and generously supported their stall.



Due to lockdown restrictions, the girls have had to put their good intentions on hold until now, but could not wait to do their bit for the environment. The self-styled Eco Girls selected the World Land Trust charity as they share a passion for wildlife and habitat conservation and reducing carbon emissions. Sir David Attenborough has been an official patron of the trust since 2003, and emphasises not only our individual impact on the finite resources of our planet, but also the notion that we can all do our bit to help. The girls' endeavours reflect that idea very strongly. They are already planning their next stall for later in the year where they hope to raise even more for their chosen environment charity. In the meantime, if you would like to understand more about the work of the trust or would like to donate to this important cause you can visit www.worldlandtrust.org.

Elizabeth Newton
Tel: 07951 776608

What an enterprising group of girls they are! You can see their cheery faces on our front cover this month. They are to be warmly congratulated for their proactive attitude and hard work as well as for their amazingly mature global view. Ed.



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DIAMOND WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Alan and Jenifer Childs

Alan and Jenifer married on 10th June 1961. I was five at the time and the youngest of the bridesmaids. Sid, Alan's brother, was best man; the other bridesmaids were Betty and Teresa (friends of the bride) and sister-in-law Betty.



They have spent all their married life in the same house in Rochfords Cottages. Jenifer also spent her childhood in the same road. They have two sons, Gareth and Russell, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren whom they adore. Love and congratulations to you both.

Valerie Clark



www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk

May has been a very busy month. We are now open every Tuesday and Friday 9.30am-noon for volunteer opportunities. Covid has enabled so many people to work from home and find extra time to invest in their local interests and passions. For example, we currently have over 10 volunteers working with us to make sure we can deliver the best possible service to those who want it in our community. We have also been extremely fortunate in being donated over 500 plastic pots for our school gardening drive; a big shout out goes to Perry's Chapel End Nursery. We now have 620 school pupils growing sunflowers thanks to the pots donated by them. I have germinated over 100 sunflowers; get in touch with your pictures if you have found any of them.

Do watch out for our seedlings sale in early June. Seedlings are £1 and all proceeds go towards our allotment programmes. If you would like some, please contact us via our Facebook group or our website. We are also very proud to announce that we have been invited to co-create a podcast with Charitable Radio, one of our beneficiaries, so please stay tuned for an update for when we release it. Finally, we recently launched our monthly newsletter; for all the up-to-date news, gardening knowhow and seasonal recipes, please see our website.



Keiran Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039
Email: kerian@humanrootscommunity.org.uk

RANDOM JOTTINGS

A Mystery

Back in the 1970s, we had two sons at what was then Newport Grammar School for Boys. As good parents, we attended the school summer fair at the school and one of the stalls was selling end of line new paperback books. I spotted one Penguin Classic which I thought I ought to read, so bought it and became hooked on T E Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. This is his account of the part he played in the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire in 1916. I read the book and became intrigued and, somewhat obsessed with all things relating to Lawrence's activities from his birth in 1888 to his tragic death in 1935. I have accumulated almost 100 volumes on the subject since then though I do not claim to have read them all. One of these books has a mysterious inscription in the fly leaf. It is written in pencil in longhand and a foreign language, or a transliteration from one. This is a transcript:

hoobul dahaya el iluhadi
dahaya juer el ittoral
bulkan al fikka biktorkadi
hathailhoo kula mamatu
habool halomool a kulyadole
kapri al kawna jadidan hora
watakoonov anton al woozhu
Bizhoomua en hoobu la chodofor
ghadu al unaniyu set yech
maly al backa

The book is a copy of *The Arab Awakening* by George Antonius. It was first published in 1938 but my copy is a reprint from 1945, and it is war-time quality. I do not remember where I bought the book. Is there anyone reading this who can help me to decipher this writing and solve the mystery? It may just be a shopping list or verses from the Quran. I would just like to know.



Cliff Gilbert
Tel: 814291
Email: cliffgilbert496@btinternet.com

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 19th June



Ugley Village Hall
10.00am-12 noon



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If you would like to go on our email list to be updated on the current situation, contact Susan Bone on uglevillagehall@gmail.com or telephone 01279 814052

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Tudor Owen, chairman of the Stansted Millers, looks out of the storm hatch while mill wright Paul Kemp carries out repairs to the windmill's striking gear 57ft above the ground from a cherry picker. Photographs Luke Thomas



STANSTED WINDMILL

STRIKING ATTRACTION

A strong head for heights was called for recently when fine spring weather and the easing of the lockdown provided the Stansted Millers with a chance to complete repairs to the village's windmill.

For three days in April villagers will have seen mill wright Paul Kemp and local engineer Steve Mansfield atop the 57 ft Grade-II* listed structure.

Using a cherry picker brought over from Peterborough, the duo set about fixing the windmill's striking mechanism that controls its shutters which rotate the landmark's distinctive white sails.

"The platform at the top of the mill has slumped two to three inches, affecting the striking mechanism," says Richard Thomas, treasurer of the Stansted Millers. "We overhauled the mechanism in September but it didn't fully solve the problem."

Since the work in April, the sails can be operated from ground level as they now move in lighter winds than before because the repairs have allowed the shutters to close more freely and close fully.

Mr Thomas says keeping the sails moving is vital in maintaining public interest. "Otherwise it becomes just a static historical monument," he adds.

The duo were assisted in their work at the top of the structure by a team of volunteers, who were also busy applying a fresh lick of paint to store lockers and floodlight boxes, as well as restoring the visitor information board at the foot of the mill.

Preserving a mill with Scheduled Ancient Monument status and that retains much of its original machinery from 1787 requires biannual inspections, typically performed in the winter and summer months, and the need for frequent, expensive repair work.

"Fixing the striking mechanism has cost about £4,000 which we fund from our budget," explains Mr Thomas. "But replacing the sails in future years for safety reasons could be north of £70,000. For that we would



Restoration work has seen 20 panels refitted to the windmill's sails. Photograph Luke Thomas

be looking for grants from English Heritage or sponsors like the Stansted Airport Passenger Fund."

Money raised from social events such as coffee mornings, plant sales and quiz nights put on by the Stansted Millers goes towards covering the windmill's bills. Other than acting as one of two trustees for the mill, the Parish Council sets aside part of its budget each year to help with its up-keep. This amounted to £5,670 in 2020-21.

In normal years, the Stansted Millers would raise a significant amount of funding from their summer fête. "But we managed no fundraising last year, or even so far this one, because of the pandemic," says Mr Thomas. "Hopefully the fête will go ahead on the Bank Holiday in August, and that should bring in some money."

Entrance fees to the mill also help pay for its upkeep, and usually the windmill is open on Bank Holidays, and the first Sunday of each month between May and October. Covid regulations, however, have pushed back the start of this year's visitor season to July 4.

YOUNG BLOOD NEEDED

More stewards would allow the windmill to open more frequently. The Stansted Millers has 8 people on its committee and 40-50 members who pay a £5 annual fee to support the mill, but the organisation is keen to recruit some fresh, young blood into its ranks.

"We joke that if you have a seven in front of your age in this organisation you are young," says Mr Thomas, who is himself 74. "We could really do with some young, active people to help us."

Those interested in lending a hand should contact the organisation at stanstedwindmill.co.uk or facebook.com/stansted.windmill

POLICE LIVE CHAT SERVICE

Uttlesford District Police are keen to highlight a live chat service that helps you report non-emergency crime such as anti-social behaviour in your area.

The Live Chat service allows people to send and receive real-time direct messages with police online operators. Live Chat aims to ease demand on the existing 101 telephone service while improving community policing in areas such as Stansted by getting help to those in need as quickly as possible.

"The Live chat function is an alternative way of reporting online," says PC Kerry Rowson of Essex Police. "It is not monitored by the Community Policing Team. However, any incidents created from the chat would be highlighted in the same way as if they were phoned."



Live Chat is accessible every day between 7am-11pm if you have a desktop computer, a laptop, a tablet or even a mobile phone. Just search for essex.police.uk where at the bottom of the web page you will find Live Chat highlighted.

PC Rowson also encourages residents with internet access to follow its Uttlesford Facebook page (@EPUttlesford) where the Community Policing Team posts its updates.

CITIZENS ADVICE LIBRARY SERVICE

The planned introduction of touch screens at the Mountfitchet Exchange library could see residents have increased access to the Citizen's Advice service.

Each year Uttlesford Citizens Advice helps around 200 Stansted villagers manage problems in their lives such as trouble accessing the right care for a loved one; money worries; redundancy fears or hurdles applying for benefits.

With demand for appointments in Stansted growing each year, the team at Uttlesford Citizens Advice explored ways to expand and improve access to their service. The solution they settled on was touch-screen technology.

The pandemic taught them valuable lessons about user behaviour. Face-to-face consultations remained the preferred way to get help, but clients were happy to accept telephone advice as an effective alternative. But they discovered that advice calls are not without

drawbacks. For example a lack of credit on mobiles and poor reception can be an issue, while posting supporting documents and letters can be expensive and cause delays. Adopting touch screens to act as a 'doorbell' is seen as a way around such hurdles.

With screens installed in the library, users will use them to alert the service they need a chat. An adviser from Citizens Advice will then appear on the screen, and advisers can employ cloud-managed printers and scanners to print out client documents. The goal is to provide the same level of service a client would get from a face-to-face interaction. In-person appointments will be offered and booths sound-proofed too.

It is hoped the project will open in the Stansted library by the end of this month.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Alan Dean writes:

TIDE TURNS ON AIRPORT PLANS

When I last wrote this column in early January, I raised several issues that are still with us, so I will try to update Link readers.

The airport expansion appeal hearings ended in March. You will have read in the May edition of the Link accounts by my colleague Geoffrey Sell and by Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) that were seriously critical of Uttlesford's legal team's "defence" against the airport's appeal to overturn UDC's refusal of expansion plans.

As I write, I am pursuing internally what I consider to be the contra-democratic act of a council that acted in the opposite way from the decision of its own planning committee!

Anyway, in April the government in Westminster decided (at last) that carbon emissions from aviation should be included in the UK's future carbon budgets to curtail climate change. That is a breakthrough.

It fits with the case behind the planning committee's refusal last year. It aligns with SSE's case at the appeal. But NOT with UDC's formal case at the appeal! Now the Council finds itself on the backfoot whilst the appeal inspectors take stock of the changed circumstances. Watch this space!

PENNINGTON LANE APPEAL

The results of the council's call for (building) sites in the latest (of several!) attempt to produce a Local Plan are expected to be published in June or July. Then there will be public consultations. I remain less convinced than I have ever been that this council will be capable of making the necessary hard decisions to complete a workable plan.



The campaign to stop homes being built on land opposite Pennington Lane is still on-going.

In July there will be an appeal against UDC's refusal of the opportunistic planning application west of Pennington Lane. On this occasion, thankfully, UDC will be working alongside the Save Stansted Village group and the Parish Council hopefully to see off this opportunistic application.

DAY CENTRES PLANS - FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Finally, I just want to say that I have been very disappointed with the way that Uttlesford District Council is treating some of the Stansted's elderly people.

The Day Centre has been used for many years by some of our more senior residents for companionship over a hot lunch three days a week. It has been closed for over 12 months because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In recent months, advantage has been taken of the enforced closure to firstly scrap hot lunches henceforth, and secondly enhance the community use of the premises whenever they reopen.

I've told the ruling administration and our officers at Uttlesford that they are going about this the wrong way. They should firstly listen to what people want in future and then work out a new programme of activities. To scrap a decent meal for, let's say, a sausage roll and a packet of crisps will not do. I hope that UDC will see sense before too long.

There is local hope from the creation of the new community service TouchPoint* that Stansted will not be short changed. My colleagues and I will do our best to make sure Uttlesford continues to fund the new set-up. My colleague Ayub Khan is on the Uttlesford task group due to work up the new services that UDC will support, and I know that he will fight for what local people need and want.

**This volunteer-run project aims to offer an inclusive meeting space where people can meet, share ideas and find support. At a Full Council Meeting on April 7, the Parish Council agreed to back TouchPoint, helping it shape a business plan for Uttlesford District Council and negotiating terms of occupation with the organisation to use the premises at Crafton Green.*

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

STAFF

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Trainee Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net

Phone/fax: 01279 813214

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-1pm

Website: stansted.net

Find us on on Facebook at stansted.parishcouncil.1

or instagram at stanstedparishcouncil

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Up and coming meetings are listed below:

- **June 2** - Highways 7 pm
- Finance & General Purposes 8pm
- **June 16** - Emergency Planning 7pm
- Open Spaces 8pm
- **June 30** - Full Council 7.30pm

See council website for Agendas under Meetings tab.

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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

POLICE

PCSO Nikki Morris

tel: 101(non-emergency)

email: nikki.morris@essex.police.uk

The Community Policing Team has its own email address which is monitored daily:

braintreeanduttlesfordcpt@essex.pnn.police.uk

LIBRARIES

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

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

GARDEN WASTE



For residents without access to the Recycling Centre for Household Waste at Saffron Walden, a skip is available to dispose of garden waste in the Lower Street Car Park on alternate Sundays 12.30-4.30pm. Dates in June are:

- **June 13** **June 27**

Alternatively, residents can sign up with Uttlesford District Council's garden waste bin collection service. The cost is £46 for 2021-22. There's a £22.50 one-off fee for a garden waste bin for new scheme entrants. See uttlesford.gov.uk/gardenwaste

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I like to look back when I write these articles; this time last year we were beginning to welcome the return of volunteers but could not yet tell when we would have visitors. Now we have already had our first visitors - at the April Open Day, which was a lovely sunny day enjoyed by all. On the first few Open Thursdays, visitors came to see the volunteers at work. By June, hopefully lockdowns will be a distant memory and we will have normal beautiful late spring weather. We will be joined at the Open Day on **Sunday 27th June** by Jono Forgham, local naturalist, who will show visitors the bugs in the gardens; and by the RSPB, Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. Our beekeepers, local coppicers and a local woodturner will also be with us.



Assuming we have a bit more rain by June, the gardens should be looking gorgeous, and we may have some early produce from the walled kitchen garden on sale, as well as plant and jam stalls. Key plants around the gardens in early June are common orchids, the philadelphus and on good years the lovely false acacia, which may be late this year. Towards the end of June there should be roses and waterlilies. In the walled kitchen garden, the squashes should be spreading out and perhaps climbing up the hazel A-frames erected for them. We may be able to harvest potatoes and the first dwarf green beans. Open Days are now by ticket only, obtainable through our website or Facebook page. Open Thursdays do not currently require tickets and details of the more limited offer on Thursdays can be found on our website.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

TWITCHELS OR GINNELS – ANSWERS

1. Croasdaile Road/Gilbey Crescent
2. St John's Road/Chapel Hill
3. Bentfield Road
4. Cambridge Road/Bentfield Gardens
5. Cambridge Road



RSPB STORT VALLEY LOCAL GROUP

www.rspb.org.uk/groups/stortvalley

At this time of year, I hope it is useful for me to share the RSPB advice on what to do if you find a baby bird:

- *If fully feathered*, it has left the nest deliberately. Leave it where it is
- *A very young nestling (naked/downy)*, may have fallen accidentally. You can return it to the nest, but only if you know where it came from and if it is healthy
- *If in a dangerous, exposed location*, you can carefully move it a short distance to somewhere safer. Handling will not cause its parents to abandon it
- *Keep cats indoors* as much as possible until fledglings are airborne
- *Removal from the wild* is a very last resort if the fledgling is injured, orphaned or definitely abandoned. It is now dependent on humans for survival and should be passed to an expert rehabilitator as soon as possible. The RSPB does not run a bird rescue service, so please contact a local rescue service such as www.helpwildlife.co.uk or the RSPCA
- *Grounded fledglings* of a few species definitely do need help. These include swifts, barn owls and birds of prey.

If in doubt or wanting to confirm species do get in touch with the RSPB by email: wildlife@rspb.org.uk or call 01767 693690 Monday-Friday 9.30am-4.30pm or write to Wildlife, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL. I hope you will not need to call on the information above.

Sheila Bowles
Tel: 814973



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

With restrictions gradually being lifted, it looks as though we will shortly be out of lockdown, which we all hope will be for the last time. Next month we will be able to say more about our plans for the windmill. Now we are allowed to open, I am looking for more stewards. We have had a number of willing people who have helped with our open days for many years and I look forward to them signing up again for this year. Please get in touch if you can spare a couple of hours; if we can get enough help no one person will need to do more than one two-hour shift.

Whilst some of you were out walking past the windmill in April you may have seen Paul our millwright, and Steve our resident engineer, working off a cherry picker, carrying out inspection and maintenance and some extensive repairs to the sails. You may have also noticed Richard and a handful of other millers on the ground, maintaining and painting the flood-light boxes and our storage facility.



Molly Clark.
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

For more detail and some excellent photos of the repair process, see the Parish section, page 20. Ed.

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www.hundredparishes.org.uk

As summer arrives, we hope that readers will continue to enjoy the walks listed on the website. These varied routes provide a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the variety of wildflowers growing in field margins, hedgerows, verges, churchyards and village greens. After this season's chilly start, the warmer days have encouraged an abundance of flowers to provide essential nectar and pollen to support visiting pollinators. With the increasing concern about the alarming reduction in insect numbers, many of those caring for green spaces have adopted the *no mow in May* approach to grass maintenance, where the uncut grassy places can support a surprisingly large number of different native species. Their flowers add variety to these areas and the bees benefit as well!



Wayside plants such as stinging nettles and goosegrass (the long, hairy plant that sticks to your socks) thrive alongside lanes and tracks, as does cow parsley which, with its splay of tiny white flowers, can grow as high as a person. A touch of pink is often added by the flowers of red campion, also known as bachelor's buttons as it might have been worn as a buttonhole by unmarried men. Common bright yellow flowers include dandelions and the shiny golden petals of a great variety of buttercups. The tall ox-eye daisy is often present where wildflower mixtures have been sown. In recent years these have become a common sight beside new roadways. The types of wild flower I have listed can be seen and enjoyed almost everywhere in the Hundred Parishes. There are many more varieties to be seen and occasionally something quite rare. For smart phone users there are apps to help with identification, but we do not have to be experts to appreciate and enjoy nature's abundance.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee



Nature Notes

Spring into Summer

On sunny days we have enjoyed sitting in the garden, watching the coming of spring. Two young robins emerged in mid-April and although capable of feeding themselves they were quick to scrounge a titbit from mum if they saw her pick up a grub from the lawn.

The latter has been providing a constant supply of food for the pigeons, blackbirds, hedge sparrows and particularly for the thrush, which, when not foraging for worms and snails,



spent the day from dawn until dusk singing his heart out. He was well camouflaged and surprisingly difficult to spot in the trees and bushes, whereas the blackbird liked to sing perched on the roof for all to see. Blue tits busily investigated the new buds on the oak tree and the pigeons fed on the opening buds on the beech tree across the road. Our half dozen local pigeons were sometimes joined by a flock of up to 30 others and spent hours devouring all the fresh shoots. One would think that the beech tree would be stripped bare but it has now come into full leaf as if it had not been touched.

The red kite regularly patrols the area flying not very far above the tree tops, whereas the buzzard circles and drifts along. If it finds a thermal it soars ever higher until it is a mere speck which would disappear if you took your eyes off it for a moment.

During the dry spell the bird baths needed to be cleaned and refilled every other day and it was noticeable how the little birds loved to bathe as soon as the fresh water arrived. One of the hedge sparrows took a particularly long time bathing, splashing, fluttering and preening; perhaps she had been sitting on her nest and needed to freshen up. Anyhow, after all her ablutions, I am sure that she looked gorgeous to the others.



Felix



TOE BEANS CAT RESCUE

We are a new cat rescue charity based in Uttlesford, which can help reunite lost and found cats, rehome domestic pet cats and provide a trap-neuter-return/rehome service for feral colonies as well as check stray cats for microchips and deal with deceased cats left on the roads through road traffic accidents. The charity is run entirely by volunteers and we use foster carers to care for our cats. Donations of cat or kitten food and litter is always appreciated. We can provide a Zoom/face to face presentation about our work to local groups, which lasts for about one hour. If you would like to know more or know a cat which needs our help, please get in touch.



Fiona Hutchings
Email: toebeanscr@gmail.com
Tel: 07436 285029

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We are pleased to tell you that we are looking to meet up with our members for our first business breakfast of the year at the beginning of September. We will also have a Zoom meeting on **Friday 2nd July** at 9.00am. If you would like to join this meeting, please contact James Garrett, email: james@hnemedia.co.uk. Andrew Blatt from Murdochs Solicitors has decided to step down as Chairman of the Business Forum after seven years at the helm. We would like to thank Andrew for all that he has contributed to the success of the Forum. He will remain a member and will come to the business breakfasts and future events. Peter James from Murdochs Estate Agents will now take over as Chairman and James Garrett will take over Peter's role as Secretary. James will now be organising our meetings, and Martin Budzinsky from Voucher Packs will take on the membership rôle for us.

Forest Hall School, one of our members, organised a range of activities to recognise the importance of mental health awareness week 10th-16th May. Sarah Power at the school promoted a range of well-being activities in collaboration with Let's Talk Stansted to highlight mental health in our community. Students had a chance to connect with nature and take part in activities such as yoga, gardening, boxercise, physical exercise, meditation and mindfulness art and creativity. Wellbeing Wednesday in that week was important, as throughout the day each year group tried out three different activities. There was also a mental health research and presentation workshop.



Iris Evans
Treasurer

The picture, sent by the school, exemplifies mindfulness art, which promotes stillness and calm, and is very good for the brain.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



David Allen spoke to us about the life of Agatha Christie in April, via Zoom. Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller was born in Torquay in 1890. She spent much of her childhood alone; she was a shy child who wrote poems and loved reading. Her father had died when she was 12 and she lived with her mother. She was sent to school two days a week and to a finishing school in Paris. When her mother became ill, a doctor suggested a warmer climate so they lived for three months in a hotel in Cairo, which Agatha loved. Agatha was a good-looking girl and married Archibald Christie in 1914. During the war she nursed Belgian soldiers, and she had a baby girl, Rosalind, soon after the war. Hercule Poirot

appeared soon after in her first novel *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* for which she was paid only £25. She did not like M Poirot, so no wonder some of us find him irritating!

Twelve years after they were married Archie fell in love with someone else. Agatha was devastated and disappeared causing an intensive search. They divorced in 1928. Agatha took a trip to Baghdad on the Orient Express; whilst there she met Max Mallowan, an archaeologist, and they married a year later. Her first Miss Marple novel was written in 1930. In 1952 *The Mousetrap* opened in London and played continuously until last year; the longest-running play in the world. Agatha is the author of 66 detective novels which have been translated into 100 languages. She also wrote romantic novels under the name of Mary Westmacott. She died in 1976 aged 85, Max died in 1978. Their home in Devon, Greenway, was given to the National Trust and is well worth a visit.

We will be having our annual meeting in May via Zoom, and are looking forward to meeting outside as a group in June, and being able to talk and see each other.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

RANDOM JOTTINGS

The Knife-sharpening Man

Does anyone remember the knife-sharpening man who used to call at houses in Stansted every year during the 80s? He may well have been seen before 1985 when we arrived in the village. He had a bicycle which he stabilised by supporting it on a stand and used a whetstone attached to the handlebars.



After collecting knives, shears, and other implements to be sharpened, he would sit on the saddle and peddle sedately to operate the drivebelt. On the carrier at the front of his bicycle he kept a beautifully decorated metal box. I wonder where he came from and whether anyone knows anything about him. If so, I would love to hear from you.

Rosina Kirkwood
Tel: 816916

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STOP STANSTED EXPANSION

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS Part 1



TO BE SUCCEEDED



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STANSTED AIRPORT WATCH

Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) is ending almost 19 years of campaigning under the SSE banner, to be replaced by Stansted Airport Watch (SAW). SSE Chairman, Peter Sanders, explained the rationale for the changes: "Regardless of the outcome of the recent Public Inquiry, Stansted is unlikely to apply for any further increase in its capacity for many years to come. As a result of Covid-19, the current planning cap of 35 million passengers per annum is not expected to be reached within the next decade and it is questionable whether permission to grow to 43mpa will ever be needed. It is questionable whether 'Stop Stansted Expansion' continues to be an appropriate name for our campaign. Over the years, SSE has done far more than just dealing with the threat of expansion, such as campaigning on night flights, climate change and much more."

In the 12 months to 31st March, Stansted handled just three million passengers compared to 28 million in 2019, before air travel was decimated by the pandemic. The UK will not be able to meet its statutory target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 unless aviation emissions are brought under much tighter control. This almost certainly means that aviation growth will need to be constrained. That work will continue to be necessary, and the view of the SSE Committee is that this is the right time to re-focus the campaign on the task ahead; the need will be to ensure that the airport's authorised operations cause as little harm as possible. A further reason for the new organisation is to help bring about a changing of the guard within SSE. If there were to be another threat of airport expansion in, say, ten years' time, the current team would not be the best people to handle that challenge. The hiatus caused by Covid-19 provides an opportunity to allow new blood to learn and gain experience of dealing with the key issues. Peter Sanders concluded: "SSE has notched up some considerable successes but now is exactly the right time to refocus and rejuvenate the campaign for the longer term. I have no doubt that SAW will be every bit as effective as SSE and, as its name implies, will be ever-vigilant in seeking to minimise the negative impacts of the airport upon the local community and the environment." Peter will be standing down as Chairman at this year's AGM on 26th May, having been a founder member in 2002 and Chairman since 2004. The change to SAW will take effect from that date.

SSE Campaign Office
Tel: 870558

Email: info@stopstanstedexpansion.com

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature is not perfect, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children and babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence *Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!*



Houses had thatched roofs made of thick straw, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would fall off the roof, hence *It's raining cats and dogs*. There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and droppings could mess up your clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That is how canopy beds came into existence. The floor was dirt; only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence *Dirt poor*. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floors to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the doorway. Hence *thresh hold*.

Bess Toy Chin
(from Hong Kong via Sarah Ludlow-Elston)

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Marion and Mike Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

ALTERNATIVE ALPHABET

It has been suggested that the phonetic alphabet should be updated and Alpha, Bravo, Charlie etc be replaced with words more relevant to modern life. Here is an alternative Covid related version:

AstraZeneka, Boris, Captain Tom, Distancing, Exit Strategy, Furlough, Garden Visits, Handwash, Isolating, Joe Wicks, Keep Safe, Lockdown, Mask, Nurses, Overeating, Pandemic, Quarantine, Rainbow, Sanitise, Test and Trace, Unprecedented, Vaccine, Wuhan, Xbox Games, Yoga online, Zoom.

Loki

Club Tournament

On Friday 23rd April, 16 ladies from the Club enjoyed a glorious day of sunshine, playing in the first Club tournament of the year. Diane Brown and Carol Cook prevailed, winning 6-2 in the final against Debbie Lane and Catherine Gibby. In the consolation draw Anthea Harrison and Marta Mistikova beat Cathy Brenner and Fiona O'Brien 4-2. Many thanks to Debbie for organising such an enjoyable day. The Club holds many tournaments throughout the year for ladies, men, mixed and juniors including some annual cup competitions and we also have several teams playing in the local leagues. If you would like to join please go to our membership page on the website for further details.



From left to right: Catherine Gibby, Debbie Lane, Diane Brown and Carol Cook

Rusty Rackets!

These new drop-in sessions, aimed at beginner level adults, are held every Sunday 9.00am-10.00am. They are free for members and only £2 for visitors, so please come along if you are feeling a bit nervous about launching straight into a normal Club session.

Coaching

Lawn Tennis Association qualified coach Ollie Toms continues his popular coaching programme, including junior tournaments, tennis camps and group or individual coaching for juniors and adults. Please contact him on 07917 652014 or visit his website: www.olliestennis.co.uk for more information.

Ladies' night

Our ladies only Club sessions are on the second Monday of each month and the next one is on **14th June** from 6.30pm.

Fiona Kelly

Publicity Officer

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) cricket resumed at Hargrave Park on Saturday 2nd May with a comprehensive defeat for the 2nd XI; both sides carefully respected the Covid rules, but it felt strange without the traditional cricket teas. The 1st XI had a good win away at Woodford Wells IV. Softball cricket for juniors from year 2 to year 6 continues on Fridays from 5.30pm. Hard ball cricket sessions for older children, year 7 and upwards, take place on Mondays from 6.30pm. The remedial work identified during the electrical installation inspection was completed in April. We hope that decoration of the exterior of the whole pavilion will have been completed during May. Senior home fixtures for June:

Sat 5 th	13.00 League Div 3	2 nd XI v Little Munden
Sun 6 th	13.30 Friendly	Sun XI v Fyfield
Sat 12 th	13.00 League Div 1	1 st XI v High Beach
Sun 13 th	14.00 Friendly	Sun XI v Clavering
Sat 19 th	13:00 League Div 3	2 nd XI v Harlow Town III
Sun 20 th	14.00 Friendly	Sun XI v To Be Confirmed
Wed 23 rd	18.00 HEBL Cup	1 st XI v Hockerill
Sat 26 th	13.00 League Div 1	1 st XI v Cloghams
Sun 27 th	11.30 Friendly	Sun XI v President's XI

For more information on the club please visit our website.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509
Email: dchedge49@gmail.com



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

Spring has sprung and the grass has riz, so the bowls season must be well underway! Our Open-ish weekend at the end of April went well and we were able to welcome some new members. There is still plenty of room for anyone else thinking of joining; just ring me if you are interested. Given Covid restrictions, we decided to start the season slowly, concentrating on pre-booked rinks only initially. We did manage to hold the Presidents versus Captains internal match which traditionally marks the beginning of the season. We even dusted down the garden tables and managed to provide hot drinks using the urn plugged in to the garage power supply, which was very welcome given how unseasonably cold it was.

We are delighted that the limitations on numbers and spectators have ended, and we are able to use the changing rooms again. The leagues in which the Club participates are beginning to get going, with some restrictions, but these should start to be lifted soon. We hope to replace the floor in the bar in the near future so that the bar can re-open. Looking ahead, we have a packed season including Club competitions, friendlies and league games. Hopefully by the end of June we can enjoy our game and start up some of our more social activities. Now all we have to do is keep the

birds off the newly seeded patches and hope that we get some good rainfall and a lot more sun to help the grass grow.

Jeanette Mansell
Secretary

Tel: 07967 033924

Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

April was a record month in many ways with more frosts and more sunshine than ever before. At the Hall we have also broken a record: 34 children aged between five and eight years have signed up for our All Stars programme. Our under 10, 13, and 15 teams will soon be starting to play matches in the local West Essex League travelling to Saffron Walden, High Roding and Theydon. The Club has a total of 75 juniors this season. The senior teams got off to a winning start in the Herts and Essex Border League with victories over North Weald and Takeley II. The Sunday XI has started well with a mixture of experienced players and youngsters. Our main ground is looking lovely, but we could do with some rain to give the dry outfield some colour. We really need some warmth as well; it has been bitterly cold over the last month.

It is unfortunate that on coaching evenings parents have to stay well away from the pavilion and either stay in their cars or drive home; hopefully this will change later in the season. The ground at Molehill Green is ready for use and a big thank you goes out to all that have made the transformation possible. The pavilion is now back in service and the outfield and wicket are unrecognisable compared with what they were a year ago. We are looking for people to help with coaching on a Friday evening. The Club will advise you on what initial qualifications you will need. If you are interested in cricket and are looking for a local club visit our website or contact me as below.



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

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2. St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle
3. Denmark
4. 1947
5. 13
6. 1947
7. Commander
8. Four
9. Margarite, Theodora, Cecilie, Sophie
10. Royal Marines
11. Glucksburg
12. John Hunt, of Everest fame



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Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 07759 157620 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email:hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com	The Stansted in Bloom Group	Secretary: Trevor Lloyd Tel: 07739 428352 Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: help@letstalkstansted.org	U3A	Ray Smith Tel: 813270
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	WI (Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Millers (Windmill)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768	W I (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433	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.	
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School 506997	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/07966 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Foster Tel: 07818 417971		

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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