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Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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EDITORIAL



As you have probably noticed, this issue of The Link is fatter than the February issue, and the Link team is very pleased about this. It is largely due to contributions from our readers: articles and photographs which we cannot normally accommodate because of the large number of events which usually take place in Stansted. Very many thanks for these original and amusing contributions. As promised in the Editorial in February, we have included two articles about the proposed Stansted Airport expansion; both of these are on page 25.

No pain and all gain: that is how I would describe the vaccination, which I had in early February, along with several other members of The Link team. I feel hugely privileged to be able to have such protection against this appalling microbe. The jab could not have been more gentle; I barely felt it and had no side effects at all, other than a brief feeling of being a bit dingy! That was very unexpected and quite funny. So, if you have not rolled up, and you are hesitating, please do not be at all worried about it. The entire staff at Stansted Surgery are to be highly commended for their brilliant and efficient administration of the vaccinations. Huge thanks to all of them, including the retired medics who have stepped in to help at this time of need.

BLANKETS FOR EASTERN EUROPE



Citizens Advice
the charity for your community

Here is a picture of some of the blankets that I have been able to make because of the band of dedicated knitters who have kept me supplied with knitted squares during the last year. They all say how much it has helped having this to do and I really like putting them together.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

www.uttlesfordca.org.uk



My daughter took me and 10 completed blankets to the headquarters of Christian Hope International in Romford before Christmas. They have sent me an email of grateful thanks and said that the blankets will be sent to Eastern Europe via *Mission Without Borders*.

I have already got another five ready to go, so many thanks to all those knitters out there; what an achievement for lockdown!



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

You do not have to be on Benefits to get Help

Are you short of money and struggling to pay for food or other essentials? Has your rainy-day fund been used up? There are lots of reasons why people find themselves in financial difficulty and need help. It may be through losing a job or other causes. If your outgoings have risen suddenly, it can become harder to cope with making all the usual payments. Coronavirus has made many of these problems worse for a great number of people. Many have seen their income fall. Citizens Advice can offer free, confidential information, support and guidance. We can help you access:

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- Budgeting and debt support
- Grants to improve the energy efficiency of your home
- Support with job hunting and small grants for education and training
- Universal Credit and Disability Benefits
- Benefits for working families
- Support for carers
- Help from the local council, such as council tax support

If you are worried about money, do not wait to get help. Do get in touch by email or call us Monday-Friday 9.30am-3.30pm.

Jo Hancock
Office Administrator
Tel: 01799 618846
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk





Once again, we did not start the Spring Term as we had hoped; but in true spirit, we have worked together as a school community to ensure that children and families are supported in the best possible ways, whether working at home or in school as children of key workers. As well as live teaching sessions each day, teachers are also producing video lessons which have certainly proved very popular with our pupils and their parents. It has been great to see new technologies embraced in such a positive and creative way. This term, our weekly whole-school Friday morning sharing assemblies have been a fantastic opportunity for us to come together to share the week's learning and for the children to see each other, albeit it virtually. We have been very impressed with the quality of learning at home and are all very proud of the children.



Now, more than ever, we recognise the importance of supporting children's mental health and wellbeing. At the beginning of February, we took part in Children's Mental Health week. We started the week by watching a virtual *Express Yourself* themed assembly from Place2Be. The assembly, hosted by Blue Peter's Lindsey Russell, and CBBC Presenter and Place2Be Champion Rhys Stephenson, explored creative ways in which thoughts and feelings can be shared. Throughout the week and continuing over half-term, we undertook different activities to promote children's mental health and wellbeing. Children were encouraged to take a look at our school's wellbeing blog for resources to promote positive mental health: <https://manuden.primarysite.blog/?class=1538>. We would like to thank all our wonderful staff and parents who are working so hard at the moment to support our children as they work at home and we look forward to being back together in school soon.

Manuden Primary School - Nurturing life skills and inspiring achievement for today and tomorrow.

Marnie Tait
Deputy Headteacher
Tel: 813370

Email: admin@manuden.essex.sch.uk

We really enjoyed having Jenny Gibbs as a speaker at our January meeting on Zoom. She intrigued us with the story of her very first trip abroad, which was also her first cruise. As she has a phobia about water she had never dared to go on a boat before. She chose a small sailing boat, with only 12 passengers, and stayed in her tiny cabin for most of the journey emerging only at the end of the trip, off the coast of Turkey, to see a beautiful view of cloudless blue skies and turquoise water. She decided there and then to return and live there!

When she returned home, she was offered redundancy and took it; she was 50 years old and made immediate plans to return to Dalaman in West Turkey. She managed to get a job in a restaurant and soon learnt to speak Turkish. The head chef, Mustafa, invited her to visit his family home in a very small village up a steep mountain. Looking back, she realised how trusting and naïve she had been. The women were all in national dress, which is very colourful and sparkly. She was dressed like this for us to see. Jenny was the first foreigner to visit the village and later that week Mustafa suggested that they buy a farmhouse together if she wanted to stay, which she did; many years later they are still renovating it! At this point she introduced Mustafa, now a handsome man with thick white hair, in place of the jet black he used to have. He smiled at us and said: "now you understand why - she never stops talking!" They spend half the year in Suffolk and the other half in Turkey, where they make silk from their own silk-worms as many people do. When here Jenny talks to many groups about Turkish customs and crafts and sells some of her silk scarves. Our competition that evening was a holiday souvenir; but none of us had anything to rival Mustafa!

Our National Committee is still producing the monthly magazine *WI Life* and it is good to know that so many WIs are keeping together and managing to do projects such as community gardening, online book clubs and arranging Zoom meetings with speakers and inviting other institutes.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470

STANSTED IS WELL READ

We are continuing to meet by Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month and are finding that it is a great way to stay in touch; although not quite the same as meeting face to face, it is the next best thing. Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Tuesday 2nd March** at 8.00pm where we will be discussing *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. We are very much looking forward to reading this beautiful novel that is a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative and a celebration of nature set in the desolate marshlands of the North Carolina coast. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us, you would be very welcome.



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

STANSTED IN WINTER

Thank you to the local photographers who ventured out in the cold to take these lovely photographs.



Bentfield Green (left) and Cambridge Road by Pam Alocock



From the Permissive Paths
by Elizabeth Oakley



Hoar Frost in Lime Kiln Lane
by Ken MacDonald



Aubrey Buxton Reserve
by Elizabeth Oakley



The Pond (left) and a winter scene in Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve by Elizabeth Oakley

As the seasons change the editorial team welcome local photographs to be considered for publication in future issues of The Link. Please email them to photos@stanstedlink.org.uk. Thank you.



ST MARY'S C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our youngest KS2 class is Hazel; most of them are only aged seven. They have amazed us with their enthusiasm, tenacity and general marvellousness. We have spoken to other staff and are aware that every class in the school is smashing home school learning. We follow our school timetable almost exactly and have learnt that structure is vital in these times. In the days when so much has changed it has helped the children and adults to have a familiar routine. Stand out quotes include: "Miss! My brother's on my desk!" and "Mrs Johnson, what language did Adam and Eve speak?" during a lesson on Vikings.

We have also been entertained by pets joining in our class. Mrs J is a cat enthusiast and can be relied upon to agree to stop a grammar lesson to coo at a curled-up cat. Mrs J also found a large egg in her garden which hatched into a baby dragon. As luck would have it, the class had been reading *How to Train your Dragon* and so have been advising her on how to care for Angela Lansbury Dragon. Please be assured that even though we are making the best of it, all school staff want to be back with their children in their class. Even though we will be missing the *mute all* function!

Mrs Johnson and Mrs Marlow



www.stanstedmentalhealth.org

For many people the colder, darker months of winter can have a significant impact on their mental wellbeing. During a long period in lockdown, even more of us are feeling low, isolated and lonely. Professional mental health and counselling services are under pressure, but often the simple act of sharing your feelings with others can bring a much-needed lift. Our goal is to encourage everyone to talk more, share the burdens we are all facing at this challenging time and support those who need help.

We have over 100 volunteers supporting the initiative, including trained Mental Health First Aiders, courtesy of West Essex MIND. We welcome more volunteers; please register on our website. Current restrictions prevent face-to-face meetings and support groups, but we have launched *Let's Talk on Zoom*, a weekly drop-in Zoom call where you can meet new faces, share your experiences and simply talk with others. Everyone is welcome, whatever your situation or state of mind. To find out details and links to the weekly calls just visit our website. This month's tip to improve your mental health: **exercise!** Yes, it is cold, wet and miserable outside, but those are not excuses to let your physical health suffer. Physical exercise has been shown to reduce anxiety, depression and negative moods; it improves self-esteem and sleep. Try simple home exercises, search for online classes or simply wrap up warm and go for a short walk. You can join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/letstalkstansted.

Richard Haywood
Tel: 07794 268208

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org



www.humanrootscommunity.org.uk

As I sit here in my office the snow flurries past my window in great big gusts; spring is surely right around the corner ... right? I am eager to start planning this season's vegetables, which means crop rotations, companion planting, turning beds, mulching, trenching and weeding and pruning. Also, considering when to chit potatoes and then planning when to apply all our organic materials and biological pest control. Oh, and remember to start sowing a small amount of seeds this month! It need not be overwhelming. When planning your edible gardening, think carefully about what you and your close ones like to eat or what kind of flowers you enjoy growing. You do not want to be spending lots of time on plants that require a lot of work!



I decide what I want to grow and where I will put plants and seeds in the garden. It is important to keep a journal or, if you are like me, a spreadsheet of all the plants you have ever grown and in the exact position they grew in the years before. This process will make your life so simple as the years go on, as you will totally forget what you planted in March 2015! I have a silly little rhyme that I use to help me remember: *Roots, Fruits, Beans and Greens*. Memorise this and it will help you stay ahead of the many years of planning you are about to embark on. We call this crop rotation. Every year you will want to rotate the crops you are growing so that you can maintain a healthy balance of nutrients in the soil while keeping the biodiversity in check. When rotating your crops always plan around your main crop. Good luck growers. If you have any questions, please contact nikkidimmock@humanrootscommunity.org.uk or get in touch via our website. We celebrate our 3rd anniversary on 13th February; happy anniversary to us!



Keiran Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk



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IN MEMORIAM

Malcolm Monk

27th June 1949-16th January 2021

We are sad to announce the passing of Malcolm Monk, aged 71, formerly of Stansted and latterly of Watton, Norfolk. Malcolm passed away suddenly on 16th January and is shown in the photo below with his beloved dog, Mabel.



He was born and raised in Stansted, attending both primary and secondary education within the village. He worked for many years at Ernest Doe and Sons Agricultural Engineers, formally sited on the current Castle Maltings development, where he was a longstanding employee, remaining at work there until the Stansted branch closed. He and his wife, Sheila, moved up to Perth, where they spent many happy years exploring the Highlands together, before returning south to live in Norfolk. He was well known to all the local farming community, and many residents of Stansted, past and present, will remember him as an active member of both Stansted and Audley End cricket clubs, remaining a staunch supporter even whilst living away in Scotland. Malcolm will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. His funeral took place at Breckland Crematorium, Norwich on 9th February.

Andrew Monk and Caron Jones



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

Spring is on its way; days are getting longer, even the sun feels warm when it breaks through the clouds. Although we have had rain followed by more rain and the ground is saturated, walking around the village the gardens are starting to look colourful, with the snowdrops and hellebores in flower and other spring bulbs starting to poke their heads through the soil. On the shrubs, new buds are forming, ready to burst into leaf. It is at this time of year greenhouses and indoor windowsills come into their own, giving pots and

seed trays that extra warmth to encourage growth; but Mother Nature has a habit of tricking us all, so be patient, keep an eye on the weather forecast, before planting out plants and vegetables in your garden. To enable your outdoor plants to get a head start, cloches and protective fleece can be used to cover up the growing areas to help warm up the soil. Now is the time to plan ahead for the summer months too; seed and plant suppliers are starting to send out their catalogues to tempt everyone. With this nasty Covid virus constantly changing it is unlikely that lockdown restrictions will be lifted totally, so once again gardens and parks will be our solace and will help to lift our spirits. Once we get the go ahead to resume our monthly meetings it will be good to catch up with members and hopefully to welcome new members who have got the gardening bug. Take care and keep safe everyone and Happy Gardening!

Maralyn Harris
Chairman
Tel: 07919 47814

Bentfield Primary School
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www.bentfield.essex.sch.uk

I would like to give everybody an update about the numerous events that are happening in school but we find ourselves, disappointingly, in another lockdown situation. Once again, this means that the role of staff becomes very different as they endeavour to manage the needs of pupils at home, whilst also maintaining provision for those still eligible to come to school. We currently have over a hundred children still attending the school for several reasons: one of their parents being a key worker, the fact that they have a high level of special needs or vulnerability or are attending our nursery which remains open. Providing this service for parents and carers ensures that those who have children with a high level of care needs have the necessary support, and those who are key workers can continue in their roles to directly support the fight against the pandemic.

I would like to take the opportunity in this article to say a big thank you to two groups. First to our own staff who are working tirelessly to try and facilitate learning for all our pupils. There is no substitute for teaching all the children in the classroom and I know that this is what they would most like to be doing. However, they have taken on the enormously difficult task of managing the learning needs of everyone at home with tremendous passion. Secondly, thank you to our parents and carers who have been supporting pupils at home with the learning they have been set. I know that this has been challenging, especially for those who are also working from home, but it has been fantastic to see the response through the work and pictures that are returned to school. It continues to fill me with great pride to see the school community supporting each other as we navigate our way through the pandemic, though let us hope we can return to some form of normality soon.



David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626

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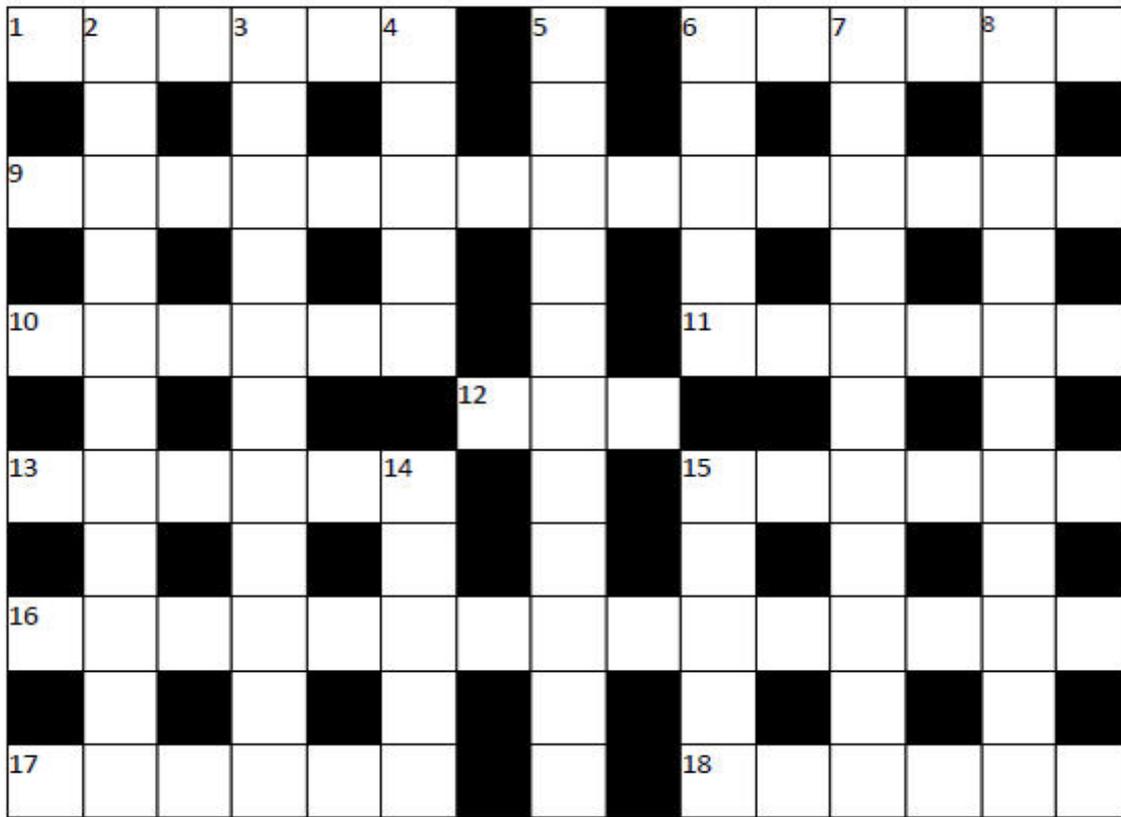
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FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Compiled by Roger Wardle. Answers on page 31

ACROSS

- 1 Renault and 6 across might like this view (6)
- 6 Artist's return (6)
- 9 Posh scrounges to make these cakes (8,7)
- 10 Greek city state (6)
- 11 It might bounce if unsupported (6)
- 12 The man might dare (3)
- 13 Crisps and choc bars, naughty! (6)
- 15 The gin is haunted (6)
- 16 Derbyshire tart is a misnomer (8,7)
- 17 One-armed and one-eyed hero (6)
- 18 Ire and rage (6)

DOWN

- 2 A carpenter's show of flesh! (11)
- 3 Tools Tchaikovsky used to break in (11)
- 4 From around that time (5)
- 5 Old college's makeshift running tracks (11)
- 6 Theme or idea to discuss (5)
- 7 A weapon's distance calculator (11)
- 8 Occupation of Koko in The Mikado (11)
- 14 German beer mug with a lid (5)
- 15 Up your nose, sounds like that's enough (5)

FIRST WOMEN QUIZ

1. Who was the first regnant queen of England?
2. The first woman prime minister was Sirimavo Bandaranaike, of which country?
3. Who was the first black woman elected to the British parliament?
4. Mickey Rooney had 8 wives. Who was the first?
5. Who was the first woman in Britain to become a medical doctor?
6. The doctor's sister, a suffragette, was the first woman to have a statue erected to her in Parliament Square. Who was she?
7. Countess Markievicz was the first woman to be elected to Parliament. Which party did she represent?
8. A Russian woman was the first in space. What was her name?
9. What was the nationality of the first woman, in 1975, to get to the top of Mount Everest?
10. Charlotte Brew was the first woman to take part in which race in 1977?
11. At which Olympic Games did women first compete?
12. Which woman was the first to fly solo, non-stop across the Atlantic?
13. Marie Curie was the first female Nobel Laureate. Which prize did she win in 1903?
14. Which woman is considered to have written the first algorithm for use on a computing machine?

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 29



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IN MEMORIAM

Stephen Flood

17th April 1963-24th January 2021



It is with great sadness we announce the death of our dear colleague and long-standing partner Stephen Flood, who passed away suddenly at home after collapsing on 24th January, aged just 57. Stephen had worked with Mercer and Hughes since 1991, when he joined us after a short time working for Kew Vets in Harlow, and two years working in Ireland follow-

ing his graduation from University College Dublin in 1985. His prudent work ethic saw him become one of the partners, alongside Bob Mercer, Peter Hughes, and Ilse Pedler, now retired, and the two current directors Seamus Mone and Rebecca Kitchen. Stephen had a loyal following among our clients; his fan club, as we call it, who appreciated his straight-talking manner and obvious care for the animals he looked after. Pets in his care were always called *Pickle* no matter what breed, shape or size!

Those who have worked with Stephen, past and present, will remember him for always showing kindness and gratitude after a long day. He made a point of thanking each and every person when leaving theatre after an operation, or when leaving the surgery at the end of a clinic. His bear hugs were phenomenal, and his singing would resonate and brighten even the most stressful of days. Following the spectacular Christmas parties, most of us will never be able to listen to *Fairytales of New York* in the same way again. A true Irishman of generous and gregarious character, he was a loyal rugby fan, dedicated parishioner, and keen collector of labradors. Stephen adored his family, who were his pride and joy. Our thoughts are with his wife Jane, his four children, as well as his surviving brother and sister, and extended family back in Ireland. A private family funeral is to be held in the UK. RIP Stephen - a true gent, immensely missed.

From colleagues at Mercer and Hughes Veterinary Surgeons



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We are embracing teaching our children at home and at school in order to keep everyone safe. Wherever the learning takes place, the children use the same curriculum for their learning to ensure that they are ready to come back together when the schools re-open to all children. Recently, we joined schools all over the country to mark Children's Mental Health week, reflecting our commitment to healthy lives. We offered a wide range of different activities which gave the children an opportunity to express themselves. Mrs Cook, our mental health lead gave the children an opportunity to take part in three competitions: photography, writing a journal, and designing characters which will help our children to express their emotions. We also ran afternoon sessions in PE, art, craft and creative skills in our talent show. The children at school also had a session with a motivational speaker, Anthony Bennet, who visited us in 2020. Anthony was keen to support our children during these difficult times; he talked about having faith and shaping our own future.

Children at home and at school were then given opportunities for creativity including creating a cosy space, making a happiness box, and carrying out a random act of kindness. We were keen to spread the children's work of positivity by writing a message or creating a picture which they could display in their window. We wanted to do this to say a big thank you to the key workers who have continued to help us all during this pandemic. If you would like to join us in celebrating good mental health, then visit our school website. You could also have a go at some of our activities using the link below. If you would like to let us know how you got on, then we would love to hear from you.
www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/world-kindness-day-random-acts-of-kindness-for-children.

Claire Berry
Headteacher



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted/home

As I write this on a snowy morning in early February, there is still no definite news to report. However, with the schools and colleges hoping to re-open their doors on 8th March we can at least hope for a more normal summer and to meet up regularly again. We will email all our members as soon as the way forward is clearer. For those of you without email, we will ring you. Some groups are still meeting via Zoom; including Creative Writing, Art, Italian and French, Poetry, Stansted Singers, Ukulele and Literature Study. Please contact us via our website if you are interested in joining or have any questions; we will be really happy to hear from you. Meanwhile stay safe and well.

Lynda Webb
Membership Secretary



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Balance Training 2

To improve balance needs more than just practising it. In December we explored simply turning round in a circle to the side that needs stimulation. This month we are digging deeper with a more precise balance drill. First test your balance in a way that is challenging but not impossible:

- 1 Sitting or standing, hold a pen vertically in front of you and stare at a target on it
- 2 Swallow hard so your tongue is in the roof of the mouth. This matters
- 3 Tuck your chin down a bit. This is important
- 4 Now move the pen to your right, following it with head and neck. Keep staring
- 5 Shut your eyes and return head and pen to the start, moving more slowly
- 6 Do this three times, then retest your balance
- 7 Now do exactly the same but moving the pen to the left. Retest, using the same leg as before
- 8 You need to do this exercise to the side that gave the best result. Do it regularly throughout the day.

Having the tongue right up in the roof of the mouth is critical for neck stability and also helps make this exercise more effective for other more complicated reasons. Tucking in the chin slightly can also help neck stability and also makes the exercise more precise. Over the next few months, we will explore other parts of the balance – or vestibular - system. So if this did not help much, there will be other exercises to try.



Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 982919



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As we are all still in lockdown there has not been very much going on at the windmill recently. We have made a provisional booking for the fête on August Bank Holiday Monday, with optimism that we will be out of lockdown and things will be back to something like normal. We have ordered some new attractions for the recreation ground which we are sure the children will enjoy. *The beast from the east* returned in February and the snow restricted outdoor activities for some people even further. Hopefully keen photographers were able to get some good shots of the windmill in the snow. If we all continue to observe the Government's rules I am sure things will continue to improve. I must say that I have been very impressed with the excellent way Stansted Surgery has organised their vaccination programme, so we are very lucky. Stay well and stay safe.



Molly Clark
Co-trustee
Tel: 816768

RANDOM JOTTINGS – A DOG IN THE FAMILY

Some dear German friends were staying with me a couple of years ago, and they were amazed by the number of dogs in British families. This has become especially true since the arrival of Covid-19, when so many people have realised how good dogs are for one's health, as they give us a great incentive to get into the outdoors, exercise and breathe fresh air, both of which help to stave off all infections, whatever the weather (see also page 5, *Let's Talk Stansted*). However, that was sorely put to the test recently, when the winds were bitterly cold, the snow was blinding and the mud even deeper than ever; but Suki did not care, and firmly insisted on her daily constitutional, which must be at least an hour and a half, or she objects strongly. This is what I call a goldfish day, when you would rather have a fish than a dog, because fishes generally dislike walks. So off we trekked; I cannot count the number of times I nearly lost my wellies to the squelchy mud, which was determined to pull them off my feet. The cold air caused a constant dripping in the nasal area. However, I was greeted at the end of the walk by a lovely crop of snowdrops, which made me feel so happy and optimistic. Note the mud on Suki's nose!



Dogs are totally wonderful companions. I cannot yet hug my grandsons but can always hug my darling and comforting dog. She is so affectionate, loyal and great fun; she makes me laugh many times a day with her daft and joyful enthusiasm for life, especially when it comes to chasing balls, preferably into water. The downside: the dried mud and fur discarded all over the house, the drool puddles when scrounging, the attempts to get into the compost bin – all fade into insignificance compared to the great joy she brings.



Elizabeth Oakley



RECYCLE INK, STAMPS AND TOOTHBRUSHES



We are still 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). Please leave items outside the Free Church or in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. **Please note that we do not take laser toner cartridges.** Thank you.



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

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Hard Times

The Archbishops of Canterbury and of York have jointly invited everyone to join together at 6.00pm each evening to spend a time in prayer for all caught up in the Covid-19 pandemic. Their prayer below reminds me of the one attributed to St Augustine where the sick, the weary, the dying, the suffering and the afflicted are remembered along with those who watch, or wake or weep tonight. We are all in a desert place just now due to the pandemic. The beginning of Lent reminds us of the time Jesus went into the desert to face a time of testing before he began his public ministry. Perhaps this year more than most, we can identify with being in a desert and the need to explore our lives and purpose, and discern what gives us support and guidance in these hard times. It is indeed a time to lie low and seek God.

Reflecting on spiritual disciplines for hard times was the theme of our discussion recently with Quaker Friends in Ghana – a rich time spent together across the miles due to the wonders of Zoom! We were reminded of how much we share with our brothers and sisters around the world, and how we can and do, support one another in hard times. Prayer is one way in which we can keep each other company in this desert time, despite lockdown and social distancing. So, let us pray for each other this Lent in the words offered:

*Be gentle with us in our grief,
Protect us from despair,
Give us grace to persevere
And face the future with hope.*

Heather Kent
Member at Stansted Meeting House



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We continue to meet on Tuesday evenings and Sundays, offering a combination of modern worship music, Bible-based talks/discussion and prayer, using either in-person or online meetings (or a combination of both), in accordance with government guidance at the time. As restrictions 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 would like more information about how to find 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? A reminder that we have a new church email address, as in the heading above.



Ros and Howard Page

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

Services are not likely to take place in the church during March, but we are hoping to restart in the not too distant future; please see our website for updates. Zoom services will continue on Sundays at 10.30am for the foreseeable future. For details please contact me.

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

From St John's Registers

January

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21st

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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

We continue to offer Mass every day; details can be found above or on our website, which also has full details of the Easter services. Special March services are as follows:

Saturday 27th Palm Sunday Vigil

5.15pm Confession 6.00pm Procession and Mass

Sunday 28th Palm Sunday

8.30am and 10.00am Procession and Mass

Monday 29th Fig Monday

9.00am Confession 9.30am Mass

Tuesday 30th Temple Tuesday

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Wednesday 31st Spy Wednesday

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Clerk and Lettings Jane Mitchell
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Although the Quaker Meeting House is still closed, Stansted Quakers are continuing to hold a Meeting for Worship each Sunday, by each being silent at the same time in our own homes. We have a strong sense of all worshipping together by doing this. Afterwards, we have our coffee or tea and a biscuit and email any ministry, thoughts or news to each other.

Jane Mitchell

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Rector Vacant

Assistant Curate Rev'd Helen Flack Tel:
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

Sunday Services

At the time of writing, St John's Church is closed for congregational worship, although our Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion service will be broadcast from the church through Zoom. Morning Prayer through Zoom is on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9.00am. Please see our website for all login details.

New Priest in Charge

St John's Church are delighted that Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather has been appointed as our new Priest-in-Charge as we look forward to creating a new benefice with the parishes of Birchanger, Farnham, Takeley and Little Canfield. We do not have an exact start date for Colin yet, but we hope that it may be before the end of March.



A bit more about Colin: he is a 48-year-old, single priest. He was born in Sidcup and educated at Cambridge and Liverpool Universities, completing a PhD in Elizabethan love poetry in 2000. He subsequently trained to be a teacher, and from 2003 to 2014, worked at Leyton Sixth Form College in the East End

of London. During this time, he received a call to authorised ministry, and ended up going back to Cambridge, this time to train for ordination at Ridley Hall College.

He was ordained in 2016 and served his curacy at St Paul's church in Braintree. During this time, Colin failed his driving test ten times, so eventually gave up, and took to riding a motorbike instead. He jogs every day, likes Star Trek, and is looking forward to the pubs opening again. He is very excited about coming to live and work in the new benefice and asks for your prayers in this time of transition.

Rev'd Helen Flack

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Nature Notes

Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*

During the Trojan War, Achilles used herbs including yarrow to heal battle wounds. The scientific name *Achillea* pays homage to him. Yarrow has many common names: to military personnel, it would be 'soldier's woundwort', to the woodworker, 'carpenter's herb'. On the home front it is known as 'staunch-wort' and 'nosebleed'. It has antiseptic, astringent and wound healing qualities. Before the days of the pharmacist, plants growing nearby could be relied upon for first aid. Yarrow has been used since the Neanderthal period. A cave thought to be 60,000 years old was found in the Zagros Mountains in North East Iraq. The grave became known as Shanidar IV, the Flower Burial. Scientists investigating in the 1950s thought this was the grave of a Shaman, or healer. He was laid out on a bed of yarrow, and pollen of plants found with him were hollyhock, St Barnaby's thistle, cornflower, grape hyacinth, marshmallow and groundsel. All plants are still used by a modern herbalist. Yarrow was used as a springy mattress material, and this is so today.



Now to more recent times. In the 12th century, Hildegard von Bingen was Abbess of her nunnery in Germany. She was exceedingly learned and talented; she knew about cancer, and treated it with violets, a plant that is being investigated today as a possible cancer cure. More amazingly, she understood metastases, the secondary cancerous growths in other parts of the body. For this she advocated yarrow tea to stop its spread. Her learning she declared came from God, and she wrote many books about the God-given plants that she used. The flowers of the yarrow will be out in May and June; for now only the feathery leaves are showing.

Bee's daughter



SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

I hope everybody is keeping safe and well. The ever-changing situation with Covid means that I cannot promise anything, but hopefully by the time you read this the end will be in sight. What a year we have had! It is going to take some time to get back to where we were financially, but I know I can count on members to get things moving as soon as we are allowed to reopen. Surely no-one thought the pandemic would go on for this long!

There is not really too much to report. All entertainment is on hold until we are sure that when we come out of the current lockdown we are not heading for another. Once we are allowed to start having bands again, I will update the website and Facebook page, so keep checking regularly. Another load of stock has been donated to local foodbanks before it goes out of date so at least it did not go to waste. During lockdown I have been leafing through some old documentation relating to committee meetings and membership, and it makes very interesting reading. I will start including snippets in The Link each month once I have compiled everything. Take care and we hope to see you all very soon!

Andrew Sharpe

Tel: 8122992

Email: eatmorestilton@gmail.com

BEREFT OF BENCH

Lockdown three proceeds apace and my feelings of inexorable loneliness are, day by day, more offset by hopes provided by the vaccine and the refulgent renewal of the coming spring. The carrion crows may indeed encircle but I inform them that I am not dead yet, so breakfast will have to be consumed elsewhere.

To bench or not to bench? It would be vain of me to compare myself to Hamlet, so I will because I am. However, mental health issues, a propensity to soliloquise? Perhaps we are not dissimilar? Richard (so bad, the Bard named him thrice), whilst sharing our winter of discontent, sans horse, might have been better off with a bench. Oft times, I have, owing to the inclemency of Jack Frost's intemperate disposition, been unable to spend as much time as I desire, 'pon the bench. But even on the shortest sojourn, I still radiate from the warmth, love, friendship and sheer camaraderie bestowed upon me, by you, the fair and kind citizens of Stansted. It is as if the bench draws me home and gives me an opportunity to give a genuine smile to all that pass. It helps me and hopefully gives a beacon of warmth to our village home. I want to fly the Stansted flag and whilst I am not as cute as Charlie, our porcine neighbour, who is lovely and has a huge fan club, I enjoy greeting my Stansted Fam. I shall now pluck out a little vignette for your delectation: I am moved and delighted by all the pensioners entering the village for their Covid vaccines. They ask directions to the surgery and one can tell how truly excited they are by the prospect of the vaccine. I make a point of saying good luck and when they return, with a smile on their faces, compliment them on their considerable and considerate achievement.

Writing these articles for the future, from the past, engenders a curious whimsical notion. Am I the first *keeper of the bench* or am I part of an historical heritage of Bench Keepers, dating back to Norman times? So, in my capacity as a bipolar bear I shall leave you with this musing: riches are riches but good mental health is wealth, in and of itself. May the warm, wondrous wings of love surround you, tranquil as a butterfly, dispelling the dark clouds that engulf us all.



Krishna Mukhoty

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THE STANSTED IN BLOOM GROUP

Britain in Bloom is the UK's longest running gardening competition. It provides a regional and nationwide platform for community groups to brighten up their village, town or city. The Stansted in Bloom Group has been established by a small group of residents who were involved in last year's Stansted in Bloom competition and all wanted to make a positive difference in their community. We have set ourselves the following objectives:

- To work in partnership with the Parish Council for the betterment and beautification of the village
- To increase community involvement in volunteer led projects as supported and agreed by the Parish Council
- To look for sponsorship and financial support to assist in improvement projects
- To enhance the environment throughout Stansted Mountfitchet by encouraging sustainable practices and increasing the local biodiversity
- To foster community spirit and encourage civic pride with enhanced planting, weeding, cleaning and recycling initiatives.

We want to engage with other groups such as Human Roots and the Stansted Litter Pickers who have been doing great work for some time. We are also in contact with the Essex Wildlife Trust and hope to work with them on a bee corridor into the village. It is our intention to enter the village in the Anglia in Bloom competition and we will be judging the established Stansted in Bloom competition on Sunday 11th July. The site of our first project is the area around the Knight sign at the northern entry point to the village at the High Lane/Cambridge Road junction.

The Covid-19 restrictions make organising any working groups almost impossible at the moment but once they are relaxed we hope to have groups out and about in the village making our village even more attractive. Please register your support for the group by emailing us at stanstedinbloom@gmail.com or log on to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stanstedinbloom.

Knight Signs

Researching the history behind the Knight signs, which are located at the northern and southern entry points to the village, has proved a challenge as the documentation that has survived leaves a few unexplained gaps. It would appear that the sign at the Blythwood Gardens junction dates from the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and was paid for by donations from residents and businesses in the village. The original sign at the Northern end of the village seems to date from 1982 and was paid for by two members of the Stansted and District Chamber of Trade. By the time of the Golden Jubilee in 2002 both signs were in a poor state of repair and seem to have been replaced at a cost of £3,000.

Most people will have noted the area around the Knight sign at the Southern end of the village has had a makeover with a new flower bed which will soon be planted up to create an

attractive entry point to the village. The Knight sign itself is in reasonable condition but will need a bit of TLC before too long. The sign at the High Lane junction has not fared well and was removed at the end of January (*see photo below*) so that it could undergo some restoration work which will cost over £1,000. It should be back in place by mid-March to coincide with the whole site undergoing landscaping work and planting, which will transform an area that has suffered due to all the development work at that end of the village. Thanks to the generous support of Sworders Auction House, the Stansted in Bloom Group was able to commission Liz Lake Associates to design and deliver the project.



The 1979 *Stansted and District Guide to Shops and Services* includes a picture of one of the original Knight Signs on its front cover. The guide shows how Stansted had evolved from the village in the 1940s which John Salmon described in his articles in the September and October 2020 editions of *The Link*. Many of the businesses John listed in his articles had survived but in the years since the end of World War II the UK had undergone some fairly radical changes. The village had a vibrant retail and service sector which included four antique dealers, three banks, nine public houses and a night club. You could also buy, amongst other things a tent, a bike, a radio (and rent a TV), a bed (from the 'largest village furniture store in England'), a chainsaw, a tin of paint, a pair of stockings, a fountain pen, a set of clackers (from one of three toy shops!), a copy of Douglas Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and a knitting pattern. There seems to have been a gap in the market for a men's outfitters and a record shop but other than that you could buy more or less everything you might need in the village. You could also get your boat and swimming pool serviced. Those were the days.

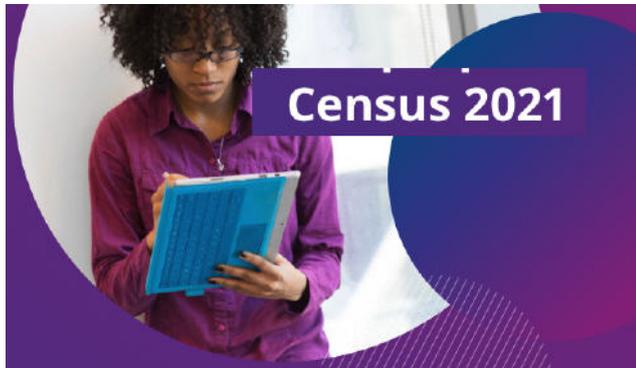
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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

CENSUS 2021 DIGITAL FIRST



It is that time again. Ten years since the last national head-count, thousands of Stansted residents will soon be receiving invitations to participate in Census 2021.

The coronavirus pandemic had raised uncertainty over the timing of census, but the council has recently been informed that surveying will go ahead on Sunday, March 21st.

Census 2021 will be the third tallying-up of the UK population this century. Significantly it will break new ground in that it will be conducted digitally.

You will be given an access code by the Office of National Statistics to complete the census online, on mobile, phone or tablet. An online helpline area has been setup. Plus there is support by phone, webchat, social media and text to overcome any IT hiccups.

HELP FOR THOSE NOT ONLINE

After Census Day, field officers will visit households from which no information has been collected to offer help and advice on how to complete the questionnaire. Field officers will wear PPE and will never need to enter your home during the pandemic.

If it's safe and within government guidelines, you will also be able to access Census Support Centres to get help tackling the online questionnaire too. You are also encouraged to ask friends and family to help you complete the online form in the first instance.

CAN I CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE?

No. You must complete the census by law. You can be fined £1000 if you don't, as well as if the information you provide is false. It is not an offence if you do not answer parts that are voluntary.

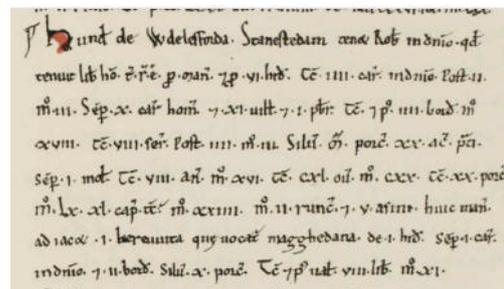
WHO GETS WHAT AND HOW

Census 2021 tells the government and councils so much more than just how many people live in a particular area of the country. The information provided is used to determine what society needs today and what it is likely to need tomorrow by providing a detailed picture of everyone living in England and Wales.

At a local level the census could help to shape future funding decisions for this village. The information will focus decision-makers' minds as they weigh up whether to build roads and homes, expand social services, invest in schools and GP surgeries, or close them.

How much public money to fund our community, and in turn how much council tax residents end up paying over the next decade will depend on parishioners' answers to the questionnaire this March.

1 MILL 3 SLAVES AND A PRIEST



With the exception of 1941, when we were at war, there has been a national census conducted every ten years since 1801.

The last census in 2011 found Stansted Mountfitchet had a population of 6,669. Since then we have seen the construction of several housebuilding projects. So it is likely Census 2021 will confirm a sizeable increase on that figure. But how times have changed in this corner of the world since the first recorded census that included the village.

Conducted by that notorious bean counter, William the Conqueror, the Domesday Book recorded in 1086 that Stansted Mountfitchet was host to 11 villagers, 20 small holders, 3 slaves and a priest! You can find out more about Census 2021 at census.gov.uk/about-the-census.

TREES TO MAKE STANSTED GREENER AND CLEANER

Residents and landowners are being encouraged to take part in a county-wide scheme to plant thousands of trees to fight global warming.

Under the Essex Forest Initiative, £1 million has been set aside to plant 375,000 trees over a five year period. It is hoped that planting the equivalent of 210 football pitches of saplings will improve air quality, boost biodiversity and reduce flooding.

So how can you help? Stansted Parish Council is eager to hear suggestions from the public as to where trees could be planted in and around the village.

Given the numbers involved, the council would also like to hear from landowners who wish to participate in the scheme by setting aside suitable plots of land.

Timing is important as the optimum time for tree planting is between November and March each year.

Those with suggestions of where to plant or are willing to contribute plots, should contact the council either by email (parishcouncil@stansted.net) or telephone (01279 813214).

Further information about the project can be found at www.essex.gov.uk/the-essex-forest-initiative.



Essex Forest initiative aims to fight global warming by locking up 60,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide - pic dreamstime

PLAY AREAS

Times are tough for children with there being limited opportunities to have fun because of the lockdown, but the council is hoping news of plans to refurbish two playgrounds in the village will put smiles on young faces.

To date, the council's Open Spaces committee have approached seven playground providers to quote for improving the play areas at Mountfitchet Green and Foresthall Park.

HARD TIMES FOR THUMPER!

A rabbit proof fence has been installed around Stansted Cemetery thanks to the area's oldest independent family funeral business, Daniel Robinson & Sons. They stepped forward to fund the fence, built in memory of the late Bart Robinson. Bart used to visit the grave of his late wife, Doris, at the cemetery.



Cllr Alan Barnes with Gary Neill, of Daniel Robinson & Sons, unveiling the rabbit proof fencing.

He was always very concerned about having to negotiate the rabbit holes and the fact that he could never leave real flowers as they were always quickly nibbled away! Hopefully this will solve the problem, but please, if you are visiting the cemetery, don't forget to shut the gate.

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Melvin Caton writes:

Planning issues dominate the report of activities at Uttlesford D C this month.

Stansted Airport Inquiry

The inquiry into the appeal against the District Council's refusal of the application by Manchester Airports Group to expand Stansted Airport up to 43 million passengers per annum started in January. As most of the Inquiry proceedings are being held virtually you can view the livestream at https://stream-uk.venue-av.com/e/sai/live_stream.

Local Plan - Call for sites

The District Council has issued a call for sites as part of its work on a new Local Plan. Anyone may submit a site or broad location for consideration, and the Council will use this information when preparing draft policies and site allocations. The Council has asked for site submissions for all types of land use, including - specifically - 'green sites' which may have benefits in terms of accessible open space, biodiversity gains and/or carbon absorption.

The deadline for submission of sites is 5pm on Wednesday 21 April 2021.

Uttlesford Housing Trajectory and 5 year Land Supply

UDC have reviewed and updated and housing trajectory and 5-year housing land supply calculation (5YLS).

This represents the housing land supply position as of 1 April 2020 and demonstrates that the district has 3.11 years of housing supply for the 2020-2025 5-year period.

Having a land supply below 5 years makes the district more vulnerable to speculative applications from developers. This proved the case in Elsenham in December when Planning Inspectors upheld two appeals for the construction of 450 houses.

The statement can be found on UDC website www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7051/Housing-Trajectory-and-Five-Year-Land-Supply

UDC's previous 5YLS, as of 1 April 2019 was 2.68 years. Rising above 3 year supply is significant because Neighbourhood Plans made within the last 2 years, which contain policies and allocations to meet their identified housing requirements, have additional protection from further development.

The second Uttlesford Local Heritage List

In 2018 Uttlesford District Council approved a first edition of its Local Heritage List (LHL). They have now identified a number of additional properties, including some in Stansted, which the council would like to include in a second edition of the LHL.

I notice that the Council are proposing to list a number of cast iron finger posts in some locations elsewhere in the district.

It strikes me that there are some similar finger posts in Stansted that are, in my opinion, suitable for listing including one at Bentfield Green and a couple on Pines Hill.

The latter ones have Birchanger named as the parish on the top so are physical and visual evidence of the expansion of Stansted to the south post the Second World War with the official absorption of the hamlet of Stoney Common/ Rochfords Nursery into Stansted in the early 1980s.

Please let me know if you can think of any other suitable signs elsewhere in the parish that would be suitable for inclusion in a future list.

Christmas Waste Collection Update

Uttlesford recycled at least 58% of waste collected immediately after the Christmas period.

Our collection crews worked hard during the catch-up period and collected over 275 tonnes of food waste and just over 700 tonnes of co-mingled recyclable materials.

Since the first national lockdown, the nature and volume of waste produced across the district has changed, with notable increases in the amount of glass and cardboard being presented for collection.

A new large vaccination centre in Harlow

On 26 January, West Essex's first large vaccination centre opened to patients at Harlow Leisurezone. A centre has also opened in Bishop's Stortford.

This will become available to book via the national vaccination booking website, by people who are eligible and have received letters from the NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Booking Service. The NHS is rolling out additional services quickly, but it is important to remember that vaccinations are by appointment only.

The West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (WECCG) has asked councillors to remind local residents that everyone registered with a GP who is eligible to be vaccinated will be contacted in priority order, including those who are housebound or clinically extremely vulnerable. There is no need for anyone to proactively contact their surgery.

SHOUT OUT TO CHRISTMAS TREE HELPERS

Many, many thanks to all of those who were involved with the Community Christmas Tree at Castle Maltings this year.

We are grateful to Hiltons - site owners - for meeting the costs of the permanent base for the tree, and to D Honour & Sons Landscapes for erecting the tree and removing it again.

Without the services of John Banks there would have been no lights or decorations on the tree, and we are thankful that Roger Pryor was able to come down with his ladder!

The tree was paid for using the balance of the funds collected last year, supported by a contribution from the Parish Council.

If we want to see a tree there in 2021, we need to start collecting more funds please – of which more to follow in subsequent editions.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Lockdown 3 rules have meant meetings continue to be held virtually, rather than in person. Despite this restriction, the council has managed in the new year to work through its full diary of business.

Up and coming meetings are listed below:

- **March 3** - Open Spaces Committee
- **March 17** - Full Council
- **March 31** - Finance & General Purposes Committee
- **April 7** - Full Council
- **April 21** - Open Spaces Committee

Agendas are published on our website www.stansted.net. Click on the Meetings tab and then on Agendas. Or follow us at twitter.com/ParishStansted to learn of any big decisions as soon as they are made.

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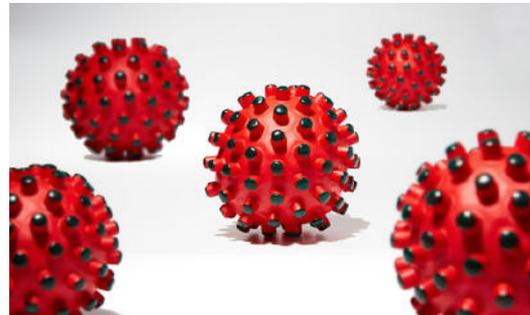
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Stansted Mountfitchet remains under national lockdown restrictions. Legally you must stay at home.

Leaving Home: may only go outside to shop for basics (yourself or a vulnerable person), for work, exercise, meet as part of a support/childcare bubble, for medical aid (incl covid test), escape domestic abuse, or childcare.

Meets Ups: no one other than those you live with or are in a social bubble with; 2m rule applies.

Education: Colleges, primary & secondary schools open only to the vulnerable/children of critical workers. Early years remain open. Higher education -- online. Review date: March 8.

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STANSTED AIRPORT PLANNING APPLICATION

In January 2020, Uttlesford's Planning Committee overwhelmingly rejected Manchester Airport Group's planning application for an extra 8mppa over the current 35mppa limit. Climate change impacts of the application figured very prominently in the Committee's decision to refuse permission. There is an environmental imperative that, for the purposes of this public hearing, can no longer conveniently be set aside. It is now universally accepted that we are living in a climate emergency. If the application is approved, Stansted Airport carbon emissions in 2028 would be 82% higher than assumed by the Department for Transport. Stansted's proposals would only increase aviation's carbon footprint further still, and would do nothing to square the circle between aviation expansion and its increasing impact on the environment. Stansted airport clearly thinks it can operate in a parallel universe where it isn't accountable for its actions and the subsequent environmental consequences that follow. This is surely a message at odds with our stewardship of Cop 26 in Glasgow next year.

Despite the unintended consequences of Covid-19 on aviation over recent months, the bigger picture is one of an industry that appears unwilling or unable to address the inconvenient truth that continued airport expansion and its significant environmental impact are not mutually exclusive! What we have here is Stansted Airport's owners seeking to apply an unsustainable business as usual approach to its impact on the climate in a dangerously warming world! The Climate Change Committee's advice to the Government at the beginning of December in its sixth carbon budget was clear and unequivocal: there should be no increase in the UK's airport capacity if emissions from flying are to be cut to net zero by 2050. A dangerous warming of the climate should be a clear warning to us all; it is neither the time nor the place for further expansion of Stansted, let alone any other airport in the UK.

I urge you to do the right thing: make a statement in which the wellbeing of the residents in Uttlesford and the protection of the environment is given priority over the commercial interests of Stansted Airport! We are told that humanity has only ten years to make a difference. You can make a difference by rejecting this appeal.

Jonathan Fox
Local Resident

STANSTED AIRPORT EXTENSION

The planning application for this extension asks for 47,000 extra flights. An extra runway must have more taxiways. This application asks for additional airfield infrastructure, one new rapid entry and one new rapid exit taxi way. It needs this additional infrastructure to be able to operate sufficient flights to carry the additional passengers. It also asks for additional aircraft stands. This is clearly an expansion plan. Even before the effects of this dreadful pandemic there was much spare capacity on the existing airfield side of this airport; there is much less need now. Expansion is not needed or necessary and even less as a result of Covid-19. We should also consider the risks international travel brings into our country.

The roads in and around the village already operate to maximum capacity in normal times. The roads have hardly changed during the past 100 years other than their surfaces being strengthened to carry extremely heavy lorries. All the main roads in our village have bottle necks restricting traffic flows, often intentionally to discourage more traffic. To confirm this issue, Essex Highways is currently conducting a detailed HGV survey to identify where these vehicles start their journeys and their destinations; we have to find affordable ways to re-route these vehicles away from the village. Our local roads are crowded already; expansion of the airport will exacerbate this problem. Fly-parking is a problem on our roads to such a level that some have signs warning against the practice, but most roads do not, to the annoyance of local people.



There are many other issues such as noise, air pollution, climate change and health. Parts of Bishop's Stortford are frequently overlooked when considering aircraft noise; for example, the junction of Beldams Lane and Linkside Road. When aircraft take off to the south west and then turn onto the Clacton flight path, this area is extremely noisy. This is outside the noise contour.

Raymond Woodcock
Tel: 816468

Email: raymond.woodcock@btinternet.com



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I WONDER

Walking around the village I have become a little obsessed by how some of our streets and roads came by their names.

The majority of the older long-established routes like Cambridge Road, Church Road and Lower Street are self-explanatory but I wonder how Grove Hill and Silver Street got their names. A grove usually refers to a group of trees so perhaps it is as simple as that; after all there are still many trees in that area. It is not quite so easy to explain how Silver Street got its name. It has been suggested that



there was once either a silver-smith or cutler with premises in the vicinity or maybe it was named after someone called Silver (as in Long John perhaps?). Then there is the more recent Spindles Lane off Silver Street; is that named after the pretty spindle tree, or does it have a windmill connection? The origin of

Cannons Mead is not that obvious either - a cannon being a big gun - and where on earth does the name Loppys Hill come from?

It is quite common to call a road after a local person, landmark, flora and fauna or to mark an event like the Coronation or Jubilee. London's Olympic Park is a recent example, and I wonder if there will also be a Pandemic Park at some point. Here are a few suggestions for other street names linked to the current Covid crisis - should they be needed: Rainbow Road, Two-metre Street, Stayhome Gardens or Captain Tom Mews. I know that we do not need reminders as we are never likely to forget the pandemic and its effects, but for future generations walking - or more likely driving - along a road called Lock Downs for instance, might be scratching their heads and wondering why it was called that; just like I do whenever I go down Loppys Hill.

Loki



www.stanstedbusinessforum.co.uk

Our local businesses of the month are Robbie Paragon Fitness Studio and HNE Media Services Limited. Paragon Fitness Training sessions take place online in the mornings and evenings from 6.00am-7.00pm, with options in between, and on Saturdays 7.45am-10.00am. Robbie and



his team also have weekly coaching calls, a private Facebook group, a members' portal and light-hearted team challenges. Feedback from participants includes: "the support has been a life saver", "I have lost a lot of weight and followed the fitness plan" and "Robbie can motivate people really well". Robbie is featuring people each Tuesday evening live on his

Facebook page *Paragon Fitness Studio*. If you text 07759 541305 or email: info@paragonfitness.co.uk as a result of this article, Robbie will make you a special offer. So what are you waiting for?

James Garrett from HNE Media has been a member of Stansted Business Forum (SBF) for the last six years. He now helps with the marketing and communications for SBF and organises the Stansted Directory in partnership with CZ Design and Print. As a business, HNE has adapted from providing video services to live streaming and conferencing services to facilitate online events, as well as adapting the way in which filming takes place in light of Covid-19. Email James on info@hnedmedia.co.uk for all your media needs or to join our next Zoom meeting on 12th March.



Iris Evans
Treasurer

STANSTED FUN RUN 2021

www.stansted10k.org.uk

Would you like to give something back to the community? If so then we need your help! We are looking for volunteers for this year's Fun Run on Sunday 19th September. Please email marshalls.stanstedfunrun@gmail.com and someone



will get back to you. If you are unable to help on the day would you like to join the committee? New members are always welcome; please do contact us for more details.

We are also looking for sponsors to support the event, whether by a donation for the raffle or monetary support. If you feel you can help in any way then please contact us via email or visit our Facebook page. Registration is now open; please visit our website. This year we are supporting St Clare Hospice, Grove Cottage, the Huw Johnson Club and St Margaret's Mental Health Unit. It is a great excuse to start getting fit, so register today!

Clair Rava

Email: stansted10k@gmail.com



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the January draw:

£100	No 119	Brenda Siracusa
£ 50	No 155	Ann Lee
£ 25	No 276	Jacqueline Jones

The draw for March will be held on **28th March** 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

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My optimism last month has been dashed; as you will appreciate, Covid restrictions meant we were not able to open the Gardens in February to let visitors enjoy the snowdrops. The upside of this was not worrying about hundreds of people tramping over grass that has struggled with the record amount of rainfall in recent months and this year's *beast from the east*. But it was so sad not to be able to share the joy of the snowdrops looking better than ever: pooled under trees at the front of the gardens, covering the banks at the side of the glade and colonising the grass in the walled kitchen garden.



It is not yet clear what will be possible in March. Last year I was naïve about the looming impact of the pandemic and we did not get volunteers back into the Gardens until May, with visitors first allowed in July. This year, we remain hopeful that the roll-out of the vaccine will mean we will be well ahead of those dates, but you will need to keep an eye on our website or Facebook pages to get the up-to-date news on when we will be open. You will also find our latest pictures of the gardens. In the meantime, we have managed to get a little essential winter work done, between the storms, and by March the early spring should be lifting our spirits. We should have finished our planting of new fruit trees in the walled kitchen garden and the pruning of the older apples and pears; the blossom should be coming out on the peaches and nectarines and the bees should be settling into their new home. We should also have the stonemasons on site, restoring the balustrade in the Italian garden. We will also have a host of daffodils in the lime walk and the glade. So, we keep on smiling and hope you can too!

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439

FIRST WOMEN QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Mary Tudor
2. Sri Lanka /Ceylon
3. Diane Abbott
4. Ava Gardner
5. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
6. Millicent Garrett Fawcett (Her husband, Henry, was the first blind MP)
7. Sinn Fein
8. Valentina Tereshkova
9. Japanese - Junko Tabei
10. The Grand National (she didn't finish)
11. 1900 in Paris
12. Amelia Earhart - precisely 5 years after Lindbergh
13. Physics
14. Augusta Ada King, Countess of Lovelace, known as Ada Lovelace and daughter of Lord Byron.

As this issue goes to press, along with all other tennis clubs, we have unfortunately had to close. Hopefully we will be back up and running soon. Due to the current restrictions our AGM on **Thursday 4th March** at 8.00pm will go ahead via Zoom. To join the meeting please email the Club Secretary Catherine Hodgen, by filling out the form on the contacts page of our website. We hope to see you there.

Fiona Kelly
Publicity Officer
Tel: 07949 623484
Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

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

All clubs that play between steps five and six of national non-league football pyramid, as we do, continue to wait anxiously on news of what will happen to the rest of our league season. We were recently requested by the Football Association (FA) to complete a survey in which a number of different scenarios were given. However, there is an overriding fear amongst most clubs that, for a second successive season, all results could be expunged, and the season made null and void.

The FA, on receipt of the survey, made a statement that "there was no specified timescale of when the outcome will be made; it is deemed important that all responses from the clubs are in conjunction with the National League Systems as they are both inter-linked and any decision at steps three and four (Southern, Isthmian and Northern Premier) will have an impact on the decisions made at steps five and six". The over-45s have to await communication from Essex County FA; however, the same outcome for their league as last season, when it was declared null and void, is the likely result. Therefore, the message to all our supporters is to stay safe and well; our teams will be back at some point in 2021.



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842

UGLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Saturday 20th March

Ugley Village Hall

10.00am-12 noon



The Market will be held if Government regulations permit. 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

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Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

The Club was saddened to hear of the passing of one of our Vice-Presidents, Bill Hampton, who died in December. Bill played for the Club from 1947 until the mid-1980s. On the day of his funeral many of his friends and former cricket teammates assembled outside Hargrave Park to applaud his cortege as it passed.

The 2nd XI's application to join the Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL) was approved at the HEBL AGM on 30th November. They will play in a 9-team Division 3; their opponents will be Albury, Harlow Town III, Harlow V, Hockerill II, Little Munden, Matching Green II, Thorley II and Thundridge. The 1st XI will be in Division 1 playing Abridge, Braughing, Cloghams, High Beach, Hockerill I, Nazeing Common II, Thaxted, Willingale and Woodford Wells IV. The season begins on 1st May and ends on 28th August. Stansted have been drawn at home to Thaxted in the first round of the HEBL Cup, and at home to Hockerill in the first round of the Davies Cup. We sincerely hope that Covid restrictions can be lifted by the start of May, as we have not played any matches since the end of August 2019. Thanks to a grant from the Stansted Sports Association, we have recently installed new security alarms in the pavilion and the mower shed, plus a number of CCTV cameras. We have also received a *Return to Cricket* grant from the England and Wales Cricket Board to assist with expenditure during the close season such as mower servicing, maintenance work on the square and running costs.



David Hedge
Hon Secretary
Tel: 812509



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

With the days getting a little bit longer and very small signs of spring on the way, the Club is beginning to look forward to the start of the 2021 season. Even in lockdown our greenkeeping team has been able to undertake essential work on the green so it will be ready for play in April, by which time it may be that some of the current Covid restrictions have been lifted. We are planning, in hope, for a full season of friendly matches and league play. I will be in touch with all of our existing members shortly about the forthcoming season; but we would also like to share our safe, sociable form of gentle exercise with more people from our local community. With this in mind we will be offering membership for anyone new to bowling for only £10 this year. We always have spare bowls available to try (sanitised, obviously) and experienced bowlers will happily make themselves available to offer help and advice. All that you would need, initially, is a pair of flat trainers or similar, as anything with heels damages the green.

We follow the guidance offered by Bowls England for safe bowling and, of course, any local or national restrictions in place. However, we really are hopeful that the vaccine roll-out will enable us to enjoy a full season of play this year.

This means that anyone joining the Club will have the opportunity to play friendly matches and club competitions and to be considered for league games. We hope that we will be able to open our bar again after a game, and to re-start our regular social evenings. Why not think about joining? My contact details are below.

Jeanette Mansell
Secretary
Tel: 07967 033924
Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com

STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.shcc.hitscricket.com

The Club is very much looking forward to the new season which hopefully will start after Easter, especially seeing all our members and hopefully a few new ones. You are all welcome; we have two lovely grounds and a very good spirit within the Club. Due to the generosity of our members, parents, and other fundraising events, the Club has come through the last year in a relatively stable financial position. Unfortunately, our two quizzes were cancelled during the winter months. Not only are they enjoyable evenings but they usually raise in excess of £2,500. However, we have raised money through the Essex Cricket Board and Uttlesford District Council to make up the shortfall.

So, on to this season. The junior section will continue to take children from the age of five years in the 'All Stars' scheme. It is great on a Friday evening to see children, parents, and grandparents down at the Club enjoying the sunshine and having a beer (not the children!). We will be arranging matches for various age groups and playing most of them at Molehill Green. The seniors will be playing in the Herts and Essex Border League Premier Division and Division 2. The good news is that it is a local league so travelling to away matches is minimal. The Sunday XI will be made up of adult players along with youngsters who are progressing into senior cricket. We note that another 449 houses are to be built in and around the village of Elsenham. We feel that we are ready to take on more members but our facilities at Molehill Green do need improving; a two-bay cricket net would be ideal so that the young players could practice whenever they want to. Anybody wanting to join the Club in any capacity please contact me.



David Brown
Tel: 07788 999663

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across

1. Scenic 6. Turner 9. Victoria sponges 10. Sparta
11. Cheque 12. Dan 13. Snacks 15. Spirit
16. Bakewell pudding 17. Nelson 18. Furore

Down

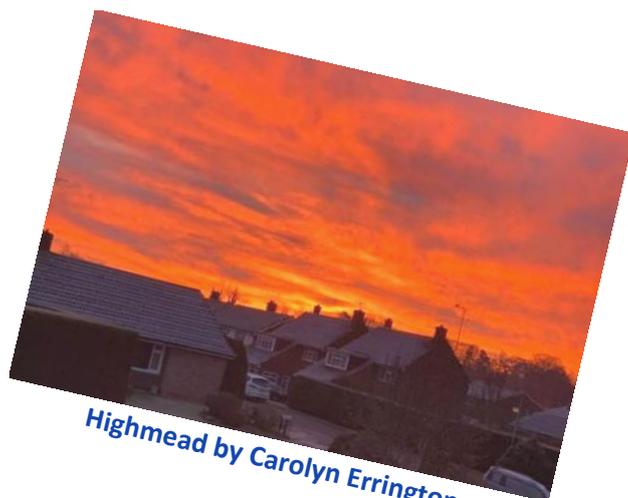
2. Chippendale 3. Nutcrackers 4. Circa 5. Quadrangles
6. Topic 7. Rangefinder 8. Executioner 14. Stein
15. Snuff

SUNRISE AND SUNSET IN STANSTED

Thank you to all the local photographers who sent in their magnificent photographs, all taken in Stansted.



Pennington Lane by Dave Otter



Highmead by Carolyn Errington



Stansted Sunset



Chapel Hill by Trixa Bella



Hargrave House Drive by Vitor Manhica



Dawn Skyway Rush Hour by Audrey Rodgers

At the present time, when there is little happening in the village, the editorial team particularly welcome local photographs to be considered for publication in future issues. Please email them to photos@stanstedlink.org.uk. Thank you.

RANDOM JOTTINGS – BYGONE EDUCATION

It appears that children cannot learn anything these days without a laptop, so how on earth did we manage in years gone by? In Victorian schools a lot of the written work was achieved with the slate pencil and tablet which is shown on the left in the photograph. In the centre is my wife's arithmetic exercise book from when she was five years old during the war. All figures had to be neat and fit in the squares and I see that she was marked 12 out of 15 for her shillings and pence sums. She would be pleased to achieve that score today!



The Janet and John books must be familiar to many of us. I was fortunate in that my mother taught me to read and write before I went to junior school, but also so many toys were educational. Cigarette cards taught everything from history to wild flowers to hints on how to play football. The popular snakes and ladders game rewarded good behaviour with a rise up the ladder and naughtiness sent you down the snake. The Belisha card game taught road safety and also a bit of geography with pictures of 40 places to be seen on a motor journey from London to Oban. Pocket money had to be earned; for my Saturday tuppence I polished all the brass door knobs.

Tony Wellings



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Emily Groom

LOCKDOWN FUNERALS

www.victoriathecelebrant.com

The pandemic has added a brutal blow to what is already often the hardest thing we ever have to go through as human beings: saying goodbye to a loved one. We are unable to visit them in hospital, hold their hand in their care home, or give them the funeral we would have wanted. Currently a maximum of 30 people, excluding the staff, funeral director, and minister/celebrant, can attend. Social distancing has to be observed throughout, and you may not be allowed to touch the coffin or display pictures. Wakes, interments, scattering of ashes and memorials are limited to six people. The limited numbers are a relief to some people: a reason to keep mourners to immediate friends and family. To others, it is added stress - who makes the cut? However you are feeling, the vast majority of people will understand that things have to happen differently at the moment.

Many venues can livestream the ceremony, potentially reaching more people, especially if they are isolating or abroad. If it is unavailable, there are companies who can provide this service, or you can set up your own Zoom link and do it yourself. You can only do your best, and you can always do more later on. Grief does not end at the funeral; you do not stop loving a person because the funeral has happened. Make plans for a memorial or a celebration of life at a later time. Yes, Zoom wakes are even happening!



Victoria
Email: victoria@victoriathecelebrant.com

The guidance is correct at the time of writing.



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Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	David Hedge Tel: 812509 Keith Ayres Tel: 814471	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Nic Devine Email: kinglouie.huskies@gmail.com	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com
Day Centre	Tel: 815091	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office Tel: 656085	Stansted Supers Handball Club	Olly Pocknell Tel: 07875 391701
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: fiona1.kelly@btinternet.net
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rbarrett54@gmail.com	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	The Stansted in Bloom Group	Secretary: Trevor Lloyd Tel: 07739 428352 Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Katharine Collis Tel: 07759 157620 Email: kat_collis@hotmail.com	U3A	Ray Smith Tel: 813270
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com	W I Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: help@letstalkstansted.org	W I (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Whoosh Explore Canoe Club	Helen and Peter Nash Tel: 817453
Millers (Windmill) music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Molly Clark Tel: 816768 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	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 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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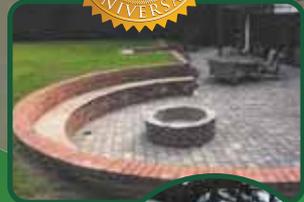
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