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Front cover:

The 2016 Windmill Fête
by Yvonne Ayres
enhanced by
Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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EDITORIAL



Both the July and August Link cover photographs show large gatherings of people enjoying themselves. This month's cover shot was taken a few years ago, pre-Covid, and shows visitors at the Windmill Bank Holiday Fête. This year's event is on Monday 29th August, with many attractions for all ages around the Mill and on Mill Fields and the Rec; see page 11 for more details.

As clubs and community groups are functioning at full capacity again, there seem to be many cries for help, with volunteers needed. This includes Human Roots on p 4, Manuden Brownies on p 7 and Helpline (p 19). It is truly heart-warming to read of the dedication of people who raise funds for charities, like Masuma Ali (see below); the organisers and participants, two- and four-legged, of the Muddy Dog Challenge and the Grove Cottage road trippers on p 3, as well as Magna Carta PTA Funday, p 19. Have a marvellous summer; Stansted residents cannot fail to do so, with all the enjoyable events planned.



FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

Mental Health Awareness Week

Students at the school marked the week by taking part in activities including mindful art, chair yoga and meditation, majorettes, boxing and a wilderness walk. The *Tea and Talk* event, held termly before the pandemic and hosted by the welfare team has returned, giving students an opportunity to discuss any issues in an informal setting. Vicky Nolan, senior learning mentor, said "We love to offer sessions like this as looking after our students' mental health is at the forefront of our ethos. We will continue to promote mental health every day of our year as it is so important to us and to our young people." Year 7 student Eddison said: "I thought mental health awareness week was really fun and it helped me to relax and to be calm. I did the art session and *Tea and Talk* and it was great to be able to hang out with my friends and chat and try new things."



Sarah Power, enrichment lead, said: "I wanted to provide a series of events for students to try new things and to meet new people. Students from all year groups were able to come together to have fun, laugh and take some time away from their lessons."

Kelly Clark



The business forum had a good meeting recently when Sharon Shaffer, CEO of Support4Sight, one of our members, introduced their latest recruit, Masuma Ali, who is the charity's fundraiser. Masuma said that she was very pleased to attend the Forum and gain a sense of the range of expertise and enthusiasm of the members.



Having been in the sight loss sector both as a volunteer and professionally since 2009 Masuma said that she was keen to bring her knowledge and skills to Support4Sight. Over the years she has worked with both large and small businesses to aid fundraising and support events,

and is very much looking forward to building relationships with local businesses and the wider community to raise funds to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people in Essex.

Charlie from DRB-DPO delivered an interesting presentation on the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) which govern the how, when and to whom businesses can send electronic direct marketing. The PECR sit alongside the data protection regulations. Charlie said it is vital that businesses understand the rules, as unsolicited direct marketing can land a firm in big trouble with the data protection regulator. Email: rhian@drbdpo.com for more important information about data protection and what your business needs to know. Our next meeting is not until **Friday 2nd September 7.00am for 7.30am** at The Linden. Contact James Garrett on hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com to book your place.



Iris Evans

STANSTED MUDDY DOG CHALLENGE

Nearly 500 participants and their dogs came together at Elms Farm on 11th June for a fun-packed day full of mud, sweat and cheers. With the sun shining, participants of all ages took on obstacles with their dogs. From Labradors to Lurchers and Bulldogs to Huskies, fun was had by all as they leapt over the hurdling hounds, wriggled through the mud at the canine crawl, and splashed through the doggy ball pit. Friends, family and volunteers clapped participants across the finishing line, where they were each handed a well-earned Muddy Dog Challenge medal and a rosette for their dogs. Tackling the obstacles was 11-year-old Jack Russell, Eddie, whose adventurous nature led owners, Sam and Stuart Douglas, to sign up for the event. Thrill-seeking Eddie has scaled the heights of Ben Nevis and Mount Snowdon, taken part in a marathon and has now conquered the obstacles of the Muddy Dog challenge. Sam said "We want all animals to be given that second chance in life and it was great to be out there raising money for Battersea, who do so much to help dogs and cats find forever homes and get the love that they deserve."



Thanks to everyone who took part in the Stansted Challenge. We are so grateful to every person and dog who came along, whether they were taking part, volunteering or cheering their loved ones on. Stansted is one of 10 challenges which took place around the country and contributed to the £70,000 raised from all the events. The money will help Battersea's dedicated staff to care for the thousands of dogs and cats that need our help everywhere. We wouldn't be able to do it without everyone's support, so thank you.

Jasmine Monk
Email: j.monk@battersea.org.uk



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Allison Smith from Bishop's Stortford and her friend Nicky Rooke embarked on a three-day road trip of a lifetime when they took part in the *Two Ball Banger Beach Rally*. Starting in Saint Quentin, they travelled through France and Italy and finished in Barcelona, taking in the French Alps and the Pyrenees mountains, all in an old Ford Fiesta costing £450! Allison works at our Special Needs Nursery and sees first-hand what a difference it makes to the children who attend. For this reason she and Nicky decided to take on this crazy mission to raise vital funds for Grove Cottage.



Allison said "I have seen at first-hand how our Special Needs Nursery has provided so many opportunities, not just for the children, but also for the families. It has had such a positive impact and has literally changed the lives of some families." Allison had never driven abroad so completing this incredible challenge was an achievement in itself, but to also raise a lot of money for this amazing charity that means so much to her, was fantastic. The challenge would not have been possible without the generous support of local companies who sponsored them: The Laughing Bishops Comedy Club, Prestige Plasterers, Croucher and Needham Accountants, Fab Science and Forefront Signs. If you would like to donate please do so via our Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alandnickyally.

Saturday 3rd September

Please join us in Sworders Field, Bishop's Stortford.

- Food Fest noon-5.00pm
- With a wide variety of food stalls and bars, live music all day and a Kid's Zone. Entry £5, children free.
- Grove Will Rock You 6.00pm-10.00pm

A special evening of wonderful food and entertainment, including local band The Lockies, Paddy Lennox from The Laughing Bishop's Stortford Comedy Club and our headline act, Queen II, who will be performing hits from every decade of Queen's musical legacy. Tickets £25 from our website (includes free entry to the Food Fest).

Alison Cameron
Fundraising Assistant
Tel: 07940 543281



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At the end of our biggest flower bombing drive since our inception, we managed to plant in 10 locations with over 300 sunflowers. You may be able to just see them over the tops of local shrubs and bushes by now. What I am saying is, they seemed to be rather short this year, like me! Unfortunately, we did not have enough volunteers to help plant them out, and the sudden hot weather meant they shot up quickly and flowered sooner than anticipated. However, I made sure they got the best possible start; each flower got a nutrient boost and a cane for stability. The only thing we cannot offer them is regular watering; fingers crossed we get some rain in between all this glorious sunshine. At the date of writing, we have raised £159 and are waiting for the money from our corporate sponsorship event to come in. Fingers crossed.

In other news, we are desperate for volunteers. Since Covid, we have gone from having 18 active volunteers to three. This means we are not able to run clubs, or grow as much food, and we definitely can't tackle any schools in the coming year. If you would like to get involved and contribute to changing our community, then please get in touch. Details are on the volunteer vacancies section of our website, or contact me. We are looking for the following:

- Marketing and social media help approximately 3-5 hours a month
- Avid, confident gardeners who are looking for some responsibility
- Someone to help build fundraising campaigns over the next six months
- Local trustees who are willing to play active roles in our charity.



Keiran Olivier
Tel: 07946 783039

Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place on the Hill is open on **Fridays 9.15 am–11.30am** in the Free Church Hall, **and will be open throughout the school summer holidays**. Parents, children, and all-age visitors are welcome. Come and enjoy a relaxing drink and chat, while the children play with the toys and listen to Story Time around 10.30am.

Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea/coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.

Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



The end of term is always a time for reflection and au revoirs but this year was a bit different. We have devastating news: Brenda has left the building! It has been said that



if Brenda [always Brenda, never Mrs Burton] grazes her knee, she bleeds St Mary's blue. Indeed, there cannot be another person who is more St Mary's than our own beloved Brenda. Not only did Brenda's sons, Wesley and Aaron, come here but Brenda herself was a pupil here in the early 60s.

Brenda has been working here since 1989 in many different roles and classes but always, always, always with a 100% entrenched *children first* attitude. She has additionally shown an unhealthy disdain for breaks or lunch hours and simply powers on. A colleague in Year 6 recently commented to me that when our out-going Year 6s write down their key school memories for their Leaving Assembly, Brenda is invariably mentioned. The children truly adore her and recognise that our Brenda is one of those rare adults who is everyone's safe person.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212



RECYCLING



A reminder that we are still collecting old spectacles and cases, stamps, original ink cartridges, toothbrushes, electric toothbrush heads, and toothpaste tubes (please place dental items in a paper or plastic bag). They can be left in the boxes outside the blue main door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church. Alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk





The Place on the Hill

10 am - 12 Noon
Stansted Free Church Foyer

**Open every Wed
throughout the summer**

Free Cakes, Biscuits
Fairtrade Tea and Coffee
All adults welcome - No charge



Stansted Windmill
Open 1.30 - 5.30 pm
Sun 7th Aug

* * *
St Mary's Open Sunday
2 - 5 pm Sun 7th Aug

Refreshments and
Church Tours



Church open daily 9 am - 4 pm



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WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

2	Tue	Stansted is well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
3 & 17	Wed	Bereavement Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
3	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 pm
7 & 21	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Pk 12.30 - 4.30 pm
7	Sun	Windmill Open Open Sunday	St Mary's Church 1.30 - 5.30 pm 2 - 5 pm
9	Tue	Link copy due in today	before noon
11	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.15 for 7.30 pm
13	Sat	The Railway Children	St Mary's Church 1 pm
17	Wed	Ugley WI	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
20	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
21	Sun	Gardens Open	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
29	Mon	Fête and Windmill Open	1 - 5 pm



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Aug 7th & 21st
Sep 4th & 18th

To advertise **your event** on this page of the September issue
tel 814059 email: events@stanstedlink.org.uk **by 9th August**
Inclusion is subject to editorial decision & availability of space



Food Fest & Entertainment

Sat 3rd Sep

Sworders' Field, B Stortford

Food Fest noon - 5 pm

Food and Drink, Music, Kids Zone
£5 (children free)

Grove will Rock You 6 - 10 pm

Food and Live Entertainment
£25 (incl entry to Food Fest)



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St John's Church

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1 - 5 pm Mon 29th Aug
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We also have our fabulous **woodland campsite**, and you can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or stay in our camper/caravan paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. All these options obviously include entry to the farm; what a fabulous holiday, all for just £25 a night and on your doorstep! Please message us through our Facebook page to book. For further information, check our website or Facebook page. There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all. So do be sure to come and see us over the summer. Can't wait to see you!

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

HUW JOHNSON CLUB



By the time this edition is published the Club will be on its summer break. Our return to regular Thursday evenings took an unplanned break in June with several sessions cancelled due to illness amongst both members and volunteers, but we returned ready to finish our summer term with an evening of bingo, a sports night and our end of term BBQ. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to ensure we could restart the Club and give our members a chance to socialise. If you would like to learn more about attending or volunteering with the Club, please do contact me.

Ellen Brooks
Tel: 07800 896516
Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk



MANUDEN BROWNIES

We are looking for two enthusiastic Duke of Edinburgh helpers to assist with our Brownie unit of 24 lovely, lively girls please. Another adult helper would also be great! We meet during term time on Tuesdays 5.30pm-6.45pm in Manuden Community Centre. If you are interested, or you know of someone who might be, please contact me.



Glynis Prothero
Tel: 814145 Mob: 07835 717942
Email: glynisprothero@aol.com

THE BENCH AND BEYOND

So gentle reader I return to the warm dappling prose that waves undulating across the page. An iridescent, incandescent idyll meets my eye as I imbibe the cornucopia of colour in our village on this, the Summer Solstice. As I sprawl languorously across the bench, I bask in the refulgence of the smiles, waves and beeps from passers-by.

Stroking the delightful dogs of the village enervates my endorphins and enriches my wellbeing. I marvel at the avian antics in the sky as bird life large and small arc triumphantly through the clouds. I smile at the pigeons paddling in the puddle and at the life affirming tweet of a sparrow. Oft times my phalanx of friends sit round our favourite table in *The King's* and entertain ourselves with witty banter and the occasional erudite observation upon the state of the world, politics and, of course, sport. The beer garden in *The Queen's* is a suntrap where I can tan until I'm teak whilst enjoying the variegated vista of views that it affords.

Now for today's tasty morsel of vignette which has an amphibian aspect. I was meeting a friend and she beckoned to me, pointing at the pavement, where, to my astonishment there was a frog! I spent the next ten minutes trying to catch our slimy, slippery and elusive friend. Finally we put it in a bucket with water and decanted it into *The Queen's* garden. Next day the frog escaped but I managed to recapture it. Imagine my surprise when *The King's* said that it had been spotted in their garden!

There will be good days and there will be bad days. Luxuriate in the good days, and revel in their memories 'pon the bad days. Vitamin D for the soul; there's the rub.



Krishna Mukhoty

CHANGES TO 301 BUS SERVICE

From 1st August, the 301 bus will be operated by Central Connect (Trusty Bus), and may be subject to a revised route and timetable. Tel 01279 793753 or visit www.centralconnect.info for more information.



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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

I make no apology for talking again about walking routes. During school holidays, they can provide a framework for family outings and also a slightly structured opportunity for children who like an adventure on their own or with friends. One hundred local walk descriptions on our website can be freely downloaded and printed. They offer outings from one mile to 17 miles throughout the Hundred. If you have access to the railway network, many of our walks start and finish from stations; all these have been reviewed in 2022 and descriptions updated or expanded to talk more about what can be seen along the way. On our website, the walks section provides links to other walk routes and walking groups, while specific organised walks appear in the *What's On* section. Hundred Parishes walks are certainly not the only routes available; our area is particularly rich in footpaths and bridleways and anyone with an Ordnance Survey Explorer map can devise their own routes. A number of long-distance trails offer challenges that will take more than a single day. These trails knit together established rights of way and are often well signposted, with maps or descriptions available from Tourist Information Centres, bookshops or online.



Photo of old railway bridge along Flich Way, Dunmow

When exploring our lovely countryside, please be sure to follow the Countryside Code. I summarise a few points that are mainly common sense:

Respect everyone • leave gates and property as you find them • be nice, say hello • keep to marked paths
Protect the environment • take your litter home • keep dogs under control and in sight • pick up your dog's poo • do not disturb wildlife.

Finally, be prepared for the English weather with layers of clothing, rainwear, sunglasses, sun cream and sun hat. Enjoy!



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226
Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

We have a wide range of topics and speakers planned for the 2022-23 season which begins on **Thursday 1st September**:

1st September Tony Crosby *Chelmsford's Industrial Trail*
6th October Peter Carter *Disaster at the Park - the Chesterford Explosion 30th May 1944*
3rd November John Miners *History of Textiles in East Anglia*
1st December Christmas Quiz, mince pies and mulled wine
5th January Members Evening short talks
2nd February East Anglian Film Archive *National Trails in Southeast England*
2nd March Professor Alison Rowlands *Hertfordshire and Essex Witch Trials*
6th April Martin Rose *Henry Winstanley 1644-1703 Last Renaissance Engineer*
4th May AGM followed by a short talk.

Meetings are held in the Crafton Green Centre, off Chapel Hill at 8.00pm. At the break we will hopefully resume serving coffee/tea and biscuits, which was suspended last year. Annual subscription for members is £10 but anyone can attend individual meetings for £2. We look forward to seeing you this coming season and we extend a warm welcome to all newcomers.

Roger Barrett
Tel 814216
Email: rmbarratt54@gmail.com



**UGLEY
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**

Our June meeting took the form of a Jubilee cream tea, complete with strawberries, homemade scones and shortbread. On arrival at the hall we were issued with a golden crown – so we were all Queens for the day – or at least for the afternoon! In addition to the delicious tea we enjoyed a very topical quiz based on the Queen and members of the Royal family and events of the last 70 years. The fun didn't stop there! One of our members, Tamsin Macdonald Johnson, gave us a very entertaining account of her appearances on the highly popular *Countdown* programme, illustrating it with items familiar to all Countdown fans, including the famous teapot and dictionary. A lovely memorable afternoon was rounded off with the judging of our competition for a flower arrangement on a red, white and blue theme. The winning entry, which featured a jewelled crown, would have graced the Crown jewel collection in the Tower of London! So ended another entertaining afternoon for our members. The speaker at our August meeting on **Wednesday 17th August** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall will be Martyn Lockwood, who will be talking on the subject of saucy seaside postcards. Why not come along for the afternoon, you would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

It was nice to see lots of positive feedback following the Jubilee Picnic celebration on The Rec and people appealing for more events like this in the village. Well the good news is you don't have to wait long for the Windmill Bank Holiday Fête on **Monday 29th August** 1.00pm-5.00pm. All the attractions enjoyed by the record crowd who turned out last year will be back. The traditional fête stalls will be located around the mill and on Mill Fields. Make sure your child brings a brave teddy bear as the traditional parachute jump from the top of the mill is back this year. The Rec will have an array of inflatables for children of all ages and hopefully Robbie the land train is not in the RMT union, and will be with us again!



We hope lots of you will walk your families down to The Rec for a fun afternoon and to support the iconic windmill. At a time when many people's budgets are stretched it is a really cost-effective way of enjoying the Bank Holiday.



We need more people to contribute to the planning and delivery of the event so please get in touch if you would like to be involved or come to the pre-fête meeting on **Wednesday 27th July** at 7.30pm in the windmill for stall holders and anyone who might like to volunteer to help. We have had over 200 paying visitors so far this year which has raised £459 of very valuable revenue. We were very pleased to welcome several school parties both from the village and from Gorsefield, the Haringey Rural Studies Centre.

The Mill is open to visitors on **Sunday 7th and Sunday 28th August** 1.30pm-5.30pm as well as during the fête on 29th August.

Trevor Lloyd
Email: lloydtreavor33@gmail.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 2nd August** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street, when we will be discussing *Miss Benson's Beetle* by Rachel Joyce. We are looking forward to reading this funny and charming story of an unlikely friendship and a tenacious quest for a golden beetle. An exotic location and swashbuckling adventure should make a perfect summer read. 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

SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com



Thank you to everybody who has renewed their membership. We now have approximately 440 paid-up members, and the money helps to fund projects such as the air-conditioning, which is now fully commissioned and working. We have also had to replace our ice making machine, so the subs are invaluable. The new lighting outside looks fabulous and we are working hard to tidy up the front garden. To protect staff and members we have installed a panic button system that can probably be heard in Birchanger!

We have more great entertainment lined up in August. **Saturday 6th** sees The Jersey Boys, direct from the London production and on **Sunday 7th** John Clapper makes his Club debut. On **Saturday 13th** we have another newcomer, 33RPM who will be playing your favourite tunes from the 60s, 70s and 80s. **Friday 19th** welcomes the return of our resident DJ, John. One not to be missed is **Saturday 20th** when Big 10 are joining us for a night of 2-Tone and SKA. We round the month off with an ABBA tribute on **Sunday 28th**. We have a race day for members on **Thursday 25th August** at Chelmsford racecourse. The coach leaves the Club at 10.00am and returns around 5.30pm. It is only £15 per person, which needs to be paid in advance behind the bar.



The Club are proud to sponsor local darts prodigy, Mason Teese. He recently attained the highest junior ranking by reaching black level in just nine months! He plays in a social club league and will be competing in the junior super league in September when the season starts. Mason also competes in the Youth England Grand Prix to gain experience and ranking points to represent England in World and European tournaments. Mason needs more sponsorship to achieve his dream so if you have any contacts that may be able to help please send their details to me.



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

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1st STANSTED SCOUTS

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Congratulations to Bobby Madigan for gaining this award, the highest in the Scout section. Bobby has taken part in a wide variety of camps, activities and challenges at Troop, District and County level over the last four years, resulting in gaining all nine Challenge Awards. His final award was gained at our recent EPIC County camp at Skreens Park. Wear it with pride Bobby, as Covid made it a remarkable achievement considering the lost scouting time.



As leaders, we also feel a sense of achievement when a Scout gains their Gold Award, as we like to think it's been our programme and guidance along with their enthusiasm that brings them to the required level.

Scouting is EPIC!

Over the weekend of 17th to 19th June, Stansted Scouts attended EPIC 2022, a weekend camp at Skreens Park. EPIC by name and epic by nature, the event was organised by County and was attended by over 600 Scouts from all over Essex. It was a fun-packed weekend and Scouts chose which activities they wished to do: kayaking, climbing, crate stacking, archery, axe throwing, paddle boarding, and air rifling were just a few of the options.



John and Jude very kindly offered their catering services and ensured the Scouts did not go hungry – thank you both very much. The weather varied from 30° on the Friday to 13° on Saturday night, with an impressive thunderstorm to boot! If you are a boy or girl aged 10½ to 14½, and would like to join in the fun, why not join the Scouts? Contact Mike Byrne on 07711 477363 for details.

Mark Presland and Mike Byrne
Scout Leaders



www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk

July Meeting

A very pleasant evening was spent visiting the gardens of Thunridge Hill House owned by Christopher and Susie Melluish who opened by arrangement for the Club. It is a well-established garden of approximately 2½ acres. We were treated to a variety of plants, shrubs and roses with attractive hedges along with views of the Rib Valley. The yellow themed flower bed was a delight. The garden is full of twists and turns to keep the visitor's interest along with places to sit, and of course some refreshments to round off the evening. If you missed this visit they do open to the public under the National Open Garden scheme.



Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 3rd August** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre when Anne Luder's talk is entitled *Seeds, spread to survive*. Visit our website for more information about the Club.

Sheila Bowles
Treasurer
Tel: 814973

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draw:

£100	No 26	Frank Skingle
£50	No 240	Margaret Trigg
£25	No 12	Judy Lloyd

The draw for August will be held on 28th August in St John's Church, 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 £2500 given away this year. The club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

We have recently commemorated the feast of the Saints Peter and Paul, who are considered crucial figures in the establishment of the church. It is both heartening and humbling for us that these two great men who achieved so much, also shared and exhibited deep human frailty. Peter, called *The Rock*, was erratic in his words and actions. He singularly recognised and proclaimed Jesus as *The Christ*, but could not recognise the nature of His mission. He rejected Jesus washing his feet, then wanted to be washed all over by Him. He boasted he would never deny Jesus and yet did so vehemently three times that very same day. Yet, Peter also had great humility, acknowledging to Jesus that he was a sinful man. Whilst inspired to act instinctively, he also floundered beneath the waves.

Paul held the cloaks of those stoning Stephen, the first Christian martyr, and was on his way to Damascus to persecute more followers of Jesus when he experienced the risen Lord. Yet it is our belief that both Peter and Paul ended their lives affirming their faith in Jesus in Rome where they were martyred for their commitment to Him. Peter was acknowledged as the leader of the Apostles, leaving the safety of their hiding place in the Upper Room, bravely and boldly preaching the first sermon about the risen Lord on Pentecost Sunday. Paul travelled throughout the Graeco-Roman world preaching the gospel to the gentile world and establishing churches wherever he went. Whilst we are in awe of the achievements of these great men, we can also empathise and be encouraged by their human failings, and be inspired by the transformative power of the Lord who chose them and us to proclaim His message to the world.

David Morson
St Theresa's Catholic Church

CATHOLIC

St Theresa's of Lisieux
High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
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

There will be no weekday Masses during the month of August. Weekend Masses are as follows:

Saturday	5.00pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass
Sunday	8.30am and 10.00am Mass 9.15am Confessions

Please do check our website and Facebook page for any updates or changes to Mass. We look forward to welcoming you to our Parish.

Baptism By appointment



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Priest in Charge Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather Tel: 816721
Email: revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

Associate Priest 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

Services Family Communion (1st Sunday) 9.30am
Holy Communion (2nd-4th Sundays) 9.30am

There were no entries from St John's Registers for June.



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

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

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

Sunday worship 10.30am. Visitors are always welcome. We join together in stillness for an hour, followed by coffee and chat. Quakers allow each person to explore their own experience of the divine. We try to live our faith in everyday life, with a dedication to peace, simplicity, truth, equality, and nature.

Light Group Quaker guided meditation. More information on the noticeboard outside the Meeting House, or contact me. A session is held on the second Saturday of each month.



Sue Moloney
Tel: 07759 532115
Email: suemol@uwclub.net



www.stanstedfamilychurch.co.uk

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

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

If you wish to attend any meeting for the first time, you will be very welcome, but please contact us to confirm the venue. Meetings are in-person with an option to attend online. Some groups are on a summer break until September. Regular members receive updates on dates and any changes, by email. We are also happy to receive prayer requests from anyone, and regularly see answered prayers. 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



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

The beautiful weather has meant that my two volunteers have been able to work with me in the churchyard and we have achieved a great deal. It has been fantastic to see so many of our visitors using our new picnic bench. However, all is not great in St Mary's churchyard. I am absolutely appalled that someone is stealing our watering cans. We originally had four which disappeared; more were

purchased and donated by lovely friends of the church and they have been taken too. This is unacceptable behaviour and I would request they are returned please. I am also really upset that someone felt they could take roses from the church gardens. I was actually nurturing them for the Anglia in Bloom competition. Shame on whoever took them. We are trying our best at St Mary's but it seems there are far too many obstacles. Do you want a beautiful churchyard? Do you want a place of peace and tranquillity? Should we not actually bother to put in the many hours in all weathers for people to spoil without thinking of how selfish behaviour affects other visitors? I sometimes wonder whether all this effort is really appreciated. If it is, please come and help us!!

On 11th June we were thrilled to welcome the Pheon Singers, former members of Cambridge University Chapel Choir, for Evensong, led by Rev'd Colin Fairweather and accompanied on the organ by Jon Lee, who is organist at Berkhamsted Parish Church. The 50 plus people who attended all asked if we could repeat this in the future. I will do my absolute best! The whole choir fell in love with our beautiful church and the amazing acoustics. My sincere thanks to Richard Carr for organising, Rev'd Colin for giving up his day off and the choir for sharing their delightful voices. Also many thanks to the bell ringers who kindly rang before the service commenced.

Our next Open Sunday is on 7th August 2.00pm-5.00pm when we will be having a visit from Alex, our local PCSO. Come and have a cuppa and a chat. If you haven't been to St Mary's before please do come along to support this stunning, but redundant church. You will not be disappointed!! Don't forget thisismytheatre on 13th August at 1.00pm performing *The Railway Children*. Tickets are available in advance from www.thisismytheatre.com or call 07732 253311. I look forward to welcoming you all.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



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Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Secretary Betty Francis
Tel: 813977
Email: betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for August

7th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
14th 10.30am Mike Dyer
21st 10.30am Denis Walker
28th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion

The Place on the Hill and *Fun Place on the Hill* are both open throughout July and August; see separate articles for further details.



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Learn, Laugh, Live!

Recently members of the Garden Group visited the beautifully crafted Boyton Cross garden created by Margot Grice. It has something to enjoy at every turn and Margot was on hand to answer questions. On 3rd August the group will be visiting the RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show. In June a coachload of members travelled to Runnymede and cruised to Windsor Bridge and back. They saw herons and a red kite, plus Windsor Castle at a distance; then they wandered through The Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park.



The June monthly meeting included a talk on the Gardens of Easton Lodge by Gary Matthews, one of the volunteers who have rescued these lovely gardens from neglect and ruin. Gary described the life of Daisy, Countess of Warwick, who oversaw the creation of the gardens. At the AGM, three new Committee members were elected, including Louise da Costa, who is now Secretary. We are indebted to outgoing Secretary, Allan Love for his work over the last few years.

However, looking at gardens is not all we do! If you are approaching retirement, contemplating semi-retirement, or are already retired and wondering what to do with your spare time, come along to our **Open Day on Saturday 17th September** from 2.00pm in St John's Church. We would love to show you our wide variety of interest groups, from singers and strummers to pilates and pub lunches. We walk, go to the theatre and concerts, take day trips and holidays, read books and poetry and philosophise; we are creative, musical and enjoy practising language skills. You will find tea, coffee, cake and a very warm welcome from all of us who already benefit from the fun, friendship and joy that membership of the u3a brings. Why not make the most of life and join us as we explore new ideas, skills and interests? For more information see our website or call 07874 385541.

Anne White



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

July started hot, hot, hot and we have been doing our best to keep key plants and veg watered, but it is always a struggle as we have to rely on a single well and rain-filled

water butts. Despite being parched, the gardens have been looking great, particularly the roses. We have regularly had a hummingbird hawkmoth and lots of bees supping from the lavender, and the butterfly numbers have picked up a little. Hopefully by August the plants will have been refreshed by rains, but we will still have warm days for our visitors to enjoy a relaxed stroll, tea and homemade cakes. It is a lovely place to bring the children in the summer holidays, as they enjoy the space to roam, with the treehouse and elephant statue to remind us of the Countess's baby elephant, Kim. There is no entry fee for children up to the age of 16 and we welcome dogs on leads.

Our Open Day on **Sunday 21st August** 11.00am-5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm) should be fascinating, as our archivist is going to help us understand more of the lives and legacy of the Maynard family who lived here before Daisy, Countess of Warwick. The first Henry Maynard was given the 10,000 acre estate for his loyal work for William Cecil, Queen Elizabeth I's Spymaster in Chief; but what is the family's connection with Wicklow and Walthamstow? As you drive around the local area you can see a family badge like this one on many houses, either a stag, an M or a W. Some of the houses state their date, but many don't.



Who had them built? Why? When did the family sell them? So many questions will be answered, and you may challenge Maggie with more of your own! *Woodwind of Startford* will be playing and there will be a range of stalls. Our Daisy's team will provide our usual fayre of local bacon rolls, hummus or cheese rolls and homemade cakes. Tickets available in advance from our website or on the gate after 12 noon. We are also open to visitors on Thursdays in August from 11.00am to 3.00pm, with refreshments and garden produce on sale.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 07947 183439



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www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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Mike and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



At our well-attended June meeting, Doreen Brown was presented with her President's Badge, followed by *Jerusalem*, a toast to the Queen and Anne Sibthorpe's Jubilee cake. Keeping up the royal theme, our speaker, Tim Turner, described the coronation and showed us a coronation stool, which people were allowed to buy if they were a guest at the Abbey. Tim's mother had met members of the Royal Family when they visited South Africa and always treasured the gloves she wore at the grand ball. Tim was very interested in the coronation memorabilia members had brought for the competition.

Recently we had a very interesting guided tour of Easton Lodge. American and British airmen were billeted there during the war. Some of us climbed into the Treehouse, rebuilt in 2017 to the original 1902 Harold Peto design. It affords a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside.



Three of us went to the Annual County Meeting in Colchester along with 400 other Essex WI members, and joined in the rousing singing of *Jerusalem*. Unusually the stage was bare of the customary wonderful flower arrangements, which we assumed was due to Covid restrictions, but apparently they had forgotten - comforting to know that even the County Chairman is forgetful just like the rest of us! Jenny Bond, former BBC royal correspondent, looked amazingly young in a blue dress with a frilly petticoat. She gave a wonderful account of her life as a journalist, including how she became quite close to Princess Diana and disclosing that Prince Charles has a great sense of humour. Afterwards she was happy to speak with us individually. I asked her how she managed to talk for over an hour without any notes; she confessed she did have some, but I have no idea where she kept them! After the lunch break we were entertained by the *The Big Sing*, an Essex soul choir, which rounded off a really good day.

At our meeting on **11th August** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre, the speaker is Mel Rees *My Family and other Setbacks*. As always visitors and new members are welcome.



Judy Colliver
Tel: 812470



STANSTED HELPLINE Needs your help!

Stansted Helpline is a community support scheme for the residents of Stansted Mountfitchet. Run entirely by volunteers, Helpline provides assistance to local residents in need of practical help, by:

-  Providing transport for local residents, mostly for medical appointments at local hospitals, surgery etc
-  Collecting shopping or prescriptions for the housebound
-  Assisting with light handyman jobs
-  Befriending the elderly and housebound

Helpline urgently needs more daytime drivers!

No regular commitment is required; when and how often you volunteer is entirely at your convenience. Drivers are required to have a DBS check, but Helpline covers the cost. The users make a donation towards the cost of the driver's fuel and will also pay any parking charges incurred.

Will you help, please?

Please call 07704 553727. The line is open 9.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday. **Thank you!**

Jennie Allaway

FUN IN THE SUN AT MAGNA CARTA



Thank you to everyone who came along to the Magna Carta Primary Fun Day on Sunday 3rd July. It was lovely to see so many people from the school and village community coming together. Huge thanks to the army of helpers, including lots of Magna Carta children. Visitors were able to enjoy lots of games, bouncy castles and yummy refreshments, and we raised over £1,600 which will be spent on play equipment for the school.



Special thanks to Touchpoint for running our tea and cake stall, Seneca Reid for sponsoring the bouncy castles and all the local businesses who generously donated to our fantastic raffle. Here's to next year's Fun Day!

Liz Gale
Magna Carta PTA
Email: magnacartapta@gmail.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE



...with news of judging for Stansted in Bloom 2022, a call for volunteers to join our Climate Change Committee, news of a decision on parking permits for Mountfitchet Green, community tables & benches, and new funding of our Police Community Support Officer

STANSTED IN BLOOM 2022

Organisers were delighted with the number of entrants to the Stansted in Bloom (SiB) garden competition. "Last year with lockdowns people had more time to tend their gardens so we were a little unsure how many would enter the competition," says Trevor Lloyd, on behalf of Stansted in Bloom. "But residents appear to be as devoted to their gardens as ever and we had more than 40 entrants."

The figure is impressive given that the door on applications shut three weeks sooner than in 2021, when a similar number entered. Judging of gardens also got under way two weeks earlier than last year. "This was in response to feedback from previous entrants," explains Mr Lloyd. "If judging is left too late, flowers, plants and lawns can dry out under the summer sun."

Organisers say SiB saw an almost completely fresh field of entrants from the class of 2021, with gardens in Bentfield Green and Foresthall Park being well represented this year. Tasked with getting around competitors' gardens were Tin-Tin Azure-Marxen, Helen Williams, Sally Lewis of Folies Garden Centre, Granville Rush, and Penny Reeves. The Parish Council stepped in to support this year's event after efforts to establish it as an independent village gardening competition came to naught.

An awards ceremony was held at Crafton Green on July 20. As names of the winners will arrive after this edition of The Link has been put to bed, you will need to head to our website to discover whose gardening skills landed them a prize in 2022. "But it is not just about the winners," says Mr Lloyd. "It is the taking part that really counts in this competition."



Judges, sponsors & organisers of SiB 2022 (left to right) Tin-Tin Azure-Marxen, Helen Williams, Sally Lewis (Folies Garden Centre), Granville Rush, Penny Reeves and Will Dutch (Dutch Landscape Architects). Two of the entries to this year's competition are pictured above.

With Stansted in Bloom behind the organisers, attention turns to the village's Anglia in Bloom entry. The focus in this competition is more on the presentation of public spaces, and judging criteria assesses community participation and benefits. Judges for Anglia in Bloom visited the village on July 20 and results are to be announced in the autumn.

HELP US FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Lush lawns and green gardens may become an increasingly rare sight if communities, governments and businesses fail to pull together to fight our warming world. That is why the Parish Council has set out plans to establish a Stansted Climate Change Community Group to unite residents, businesses and organisations to tackle this global emergency.

Play Your Part to Cool the Planet

We are looking for volunteers over the age of 11 who:

- Have passion and drive for the cause
- Want to inspire and engage with the local community
- Want to plan and execute projects focused on climate change and bio-diversity

The group will work independently but with the support of the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact our Committee & Projects Officer by emailing laila.azure-marxen@stansted.net. We intend to hold an introduction meeting for interested residents soon.

SHOT IN THE ARM FOR LOCAL POLICING

Funding arrangements for the village's Police Community Support Officer were thrown into doubt recently after a contributing local authority cut its contribution. Reassuringly, Uttlesford District Council has since confirmed it will plug the shortfall.

Since 2019 the village's PCSO has been co-funded by the Parish Council, the District Council, and Henham and Elsenham Parish Councils. The District Council provides 50% of the funding, and the Parish Council 25% (approximately £10,000 from our budget annually). Henham and Elsenham cover 12.5% of the cost each. Earlier this year Elsenham announced it was to end its support in August.



DWP SERVICE AT MOUNTFITCHET EXCHANGE

In March at the Annual Parish Meeting, Peter Holt, chief executive of UDC, said it was the authority's intention to explore options for bringing housing, planning and benefit services closer to communities in the south of the district. Since then the Parish Council has been working closely with the District Council to deliver on this goal.

The Parish Council was delighted to see its efforts pay off with the announcement that the Department for Work and Pensions plans to establish a presence at the Mountfitchet Exchange. The DWP expects to set up a service point at 72 Chapel Hill as soon as September. A DWP presence in Stansted will not just be more convenient for service users, but will also reduce their travel costs amidst a Cost of Living crisis.

NEW BENCHES FOR THE VILLAGE

A successful grant application has helped the Parish Council meet the calls from residents for more picnic tables and benches. In June more than 10 benches, some with tables, were installed around the village. Some of the money invested in the new seating came from the Welcome

Back Fund, a European scheme accessed by the District Council to support towns and villages in Uttlesford. The Welcome Back Fund was directed in part at helping communities and businesses rebuild after the pandemic.

Applications that aimed to boost tourism in an area were encouraged. Hence the siting of new seating at Windmill

Fields, the Rec (inside and outside the children's play area), two benches at Watson Green, one at Crafton Green Car Park, another near the tennis club on Cambridge Road, and one more at Mountfitchet Green. These were all areas the Parish Council believed had potential for increased visitor footfall.



Two benches have also been sited at the skatepark. The Parish Council would like to thank the users of the park for their patience in waiting for these to arrive. The previous benches and tables at the skatepark, which had been donated by a third party were removed in spring after failing a health and safety inspection.

Residents who think a bench (or table) in the community is in need of repair or replacement should send us a photo of the item with a precise location. But if you believe there is a spot in the village that could benefit from a bench, write to the Parish Council with your proposal. Applying for grants to fund seating and tables, however, is a slow process. With a new bench costing up to £1,000, grants remain our main avenue for funding and approval can be slow.

Another option may be to bequeath a bench to the community in memory of a loved one - a practice that is becoming increasingly common. Residents who are interested in donating a bench should contact the Parish Council so we can help with conducting an assessment, agreeing a location and sourcing the bench on your behalf. We then maintain these benches into the future.

PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

At the start of 2022 we encouraged residents to complete the 'Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment' survey to help us push for a second dispensing pharmacy. The information from the survey is used by Essex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to assess a community's health service needs. As such it represented the best avenue to influence those deciding our health service requirements. Now the consultation is asking for input from health service stakeholders in our community. We would urge all those eligible in our community to undertake this part of the PNA before it closes on August 5. Find the survey at



www.essexlmc.org.uk/consultation-on-the-2022-draft-pharmaceutical-needs-assessment-for-the-essex-health-and-wellbeing-board

THUMBS DOWN FOR PARKING PERMITS

Our calls for Mountfitchet Green residents to send in their thoughts on a proposal to introduce a parking restriction scheme on their estate drew a strong and passionate response. We received 89 replies from the 225 letters to households regarding this matter, almost all of which (85 of respondents) were against the proposal to introduce a permit scheme to tackle problem parking in the area.

Many residents on the estate had asked District Councillors to find a way to deal with drivers, many from outside the village, using Mountfitchet Green as a place to avoid station and airport parking fees. Residents came forward with a number of their own suggested solutions.

But the North Essex Parking Partnership, the authority in Uttlesford who implement parking schemes, decided that in their experience the only practical proposal was parking permits. This would have seen residents incur annual fees to park on the estate. Implementing a scheme by the NEPP requires 75% approval from a community where it is to be implemented. With 85 households (37.8%) writing to us to object to such a scheme, it should not proceed. The Parish Council's Highways Sub-Committee has been asked, as we go to press, to ratify this decision. You can read more about the result of this consultation on the Traffic & Travel section of our website - stansted.net/category/news/road-updates



could lead to the government stepping in and taking over yet another of the District Council's planning functions.

Secondly, in June the District Council agreed to offer £1.4 million to compensate Stansted Airport for UDC's losing the planning appeal about allowing a higher passenger throughput. Stansted's councillors did not vote in favour. I will be surprised if the airport owner agrees to accept the offer, instead wanting more money to cover their actual appeal costs.

The big issue is that the majority party, R4U, allowed or encouraged the District Council's appeal team to betray the planning committee by not fighting the appeal, but instead by pursuing a line of argument that would achieve the opposite of what had been agreed. They tried to do a dodgy deal with the airport. The appeal inspectors understandably viewed this approach with contempt and thought that UDC was wasting everyone's time and money. In my opinion, it was a shocking betrayal of local democracy and good behaviour. It was improper behaviour that will likely cost every resident a lot of lost council tax in due course.

On Climate Change, Read the Small Print!

The third let down to report is about climate change. My colleague Geoffrey Sell wrote about climate change in July and the slow progress being made by UDC in applying its £1,000,000 budget on practical initiatives to reduce the district's carbon emissions. I hope that actual progress will soon be made to cut local emissions. With heating, lighting and transport fuel costs soaring, there is another incentive to cut fuel usage. In Germany, where I have been recently on holiday (travelling by train), people were able to buy a ticket for £8 that allowed travel on local buses, trains and ferries for one month. The take-up has been massive. I hope the scheme gets more people out of their cars and onto public transport in the long-term. Local trains were somewhat crowded in our experience. At Uttlesford, claims have been made that the District Council's carbon footprint has been cut significantly by using a new electricity supplier of green electricity. It was then discovered that the supplier was paying for carbon-offset credits for using carbon-creating supplies. Always read the small print!

Good News on Social Housing & Airport Parking

The good news this month is that UDC has bought 18 new social homes in Great Dunmow. This came about after I advised the Council to follow the example of South Cambridgeshire District Council, which abuts Uttlesford. There is still a long way to go before UDC meets its targeted figure for new council homes.

And finally, "NO FLY PARKING" signs have gone up in the Mountfitchet Estate and across Foresthall Park in an initiative with Stansted Airport Limited. This is aimed primarily at airport users who avoid paying airport parking charges by clogging up our residential areas. This should be the start of a longer-term project to address this social nuisance.



DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Alan Dean
District Councillor
reports



Quiet months for councils; but not so in 2022. I wrote this report as we approached the start of the school holidays in a mood of deep disappointment and dismay at the state of Uttlesford District Council.

Planning Anarchy

Firstly, by now residents should have been engaged in, if not already having completed, a public consultation over proposals for a long-awaited Local Plan. Planning anarchy is already in full swing. So, the announcement at the end of June that the ruling party of Uttlesford District Council shockingly can't agree amongst themselves what plan to put forward was very worrying news.

In my opinion, the excuse that new land for future housing has been offered in a secret location and has now to be investigated was a lame excuse for the delay, which will last until November – or later. Circumstances always change, so I fear that the Residents for Uttlesford majority on UDC may prove incapable of deciding on any Local Plan to put forward. That will make a bad planning situation worse and

STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

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Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen
Communications Officer Dan Schlanker
Email: parishcouncil@stansted.net Phone: 01279 813214
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Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm (for a 6-month trial basis)
Website: stansted.net Facebook: stansted.parishcouncil
Instagram: stansted@parishcouncil Twitter: @StanstedMPC

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

You can attend our meetings at the Mountfitchet Exchange in person or virtually with the Zoom details found on the agendas posted on our website. Statements can be made during Public Participation at the start of Full Council meetings; permission should be requested to film or record proceedings. **There are no meetings in August, but they will resume in September.**

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for community engagement events in August

LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:
Tuesday 9am-1pm Wednesday 2pm-5.30pm
Thursday 2pm-7pm Saturday 9am-5pm

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The bi-monthly garden waste skip service has now resumed for the year. A refuse truck will be parked in the Lower Street Car Park 12.30pm-4.30pm: Aug 7, Aug 21

VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

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SIGHTS, SCENTS AND SOUNDS OF SUMMER

The beautiful, delicate flowers of the dog rose peeking out from the hedgerows announce the arrival of summer. As children we would pick a bunch of the wild roses to take home. Mum would tell us off for picking them, saying they lasted much longer and looked prettier left on the bush. She was right, of course; we rarely arrived home with more than half the blooms intact (and would never pick any wildflower now of course!). We also had lots of roses growing in our garden and used to collect the fallen petals to try and make perfume. How can such fragrant flowers smell like fresh slurry when soaked in water? With the optimism of youth, it didn't stop us trying each year though, hoping for success at every attempt.



The smell of suntan cream brings back painful memories of my first summer holiday 'abroad' with my best friend. We caught the ferry to Jersey where we spent a glorious week sunbathing on the beach. Despite smothering ourselves in *Ambre Solaire*, we both ended up with sunburn before the end of the holiday. Similarly, the sight and distinctive sound of a flock of swifts and martins soaring above, reminds me of a more recent holiday spent travelling around northern Spain. Staying two nights in a remote monastery in the Basque region, we were treated each evening to an amazing aerial display put on by these birds as they swooped and swirled high above, their calls the only sound to break the silence all around us; watching from our tiny balcony, sipping the obligatory glass of *Rioja* felt very special.



At the height of summer, it is hard to beat the magnificent sight of a British wildflower meadow in full bloom. Once in danger of disappearing from our landscape it's a joy to see the meadows gradually being re-established. Flowers dazzle in every colour of the rainbow from the blue cockle through to the vibrant scarlet of the poppy. Bright butterflies dance from bloom to bloom; insects scurry; bees buzz and the subtle, sweet smell of grass wafts on the breeze. Summers seem to go so quickly. If you're lucky enough to enjoy a hot, sunny holiday this year make sure it's a memorable one - for all the right reasons.

Loki



RSPB

www.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

As August is peak holiday time and the birds also go very quiet (most of them are growing new feathers and some of them can't fly), we take the opportunity to have a break and plan our programme for our new year which starts in September. With a break in activities, it is a chance to review our year. Our group is well supported, thriving and has enjoyed a highly successful return to activity. When we resumed last autumn there was a lot of Covid related uncertainty about the level of support we would receive. Looking back this now seems unfounded as indoor activities started with record levels of support and has continued since, with a significant number of new members. Particular thanks to Jono Forgham, member Anne Forbes and Robert Phillips, Warden of Thorley Wash, who were our early speakers. Weekend walks and visits have been complemented by a new and very popular monthly short and sociable local walk featuring local cafés and hostellers. These walks illustrate that our town is blessed with exceptional local nature in general and the River Stort and Thorley Wash reserve being particularly outstanding examples.



As my first year as group leader comes to a close, I have greatly enjoyed all our activities, meeting new members and sharing experiences with others. Above all else it has been a fun and enjoyable year. Many thanks to all of you who joined us this year; it would be great if you are able to join us in September for another year of enjoying birds, nature and each other's company (not to mention tea, cake, and other refreshments). Please see our website or contact me for details.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com

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Ladies Fun Tournament 11th June

Ten ladies took part; Carol Cook and Marta Hensall beat Dina MacDonald and new member Rachel Poole in the final.



President's Cup 25th June

Sixteen people competed for the cup which was originally donated by past-President Richard Shervington. Despite a very windy day there were some very close matches with the ultimate winners Cathy Brenner and Adrian Olver coming back from 5-2 down to win 6-5 against new members Caroline White and Andy Constantinou. It was a really close match. Consolation winners were Diane Brown and Michael Wilde who beat Mark Harris and Catherine Gibby 4-2. The prizes were handed out by current President Garth Lane, followed by drinks and a fish and chip supper.

Rusty Rackets

Rusty Racket sessions continue in August on Sundays 1.00pm-2.00pm. These drop-in sessions are aimed at adults who have never played or would like to get back into social tennis. There is no charge for members and just £2 for visitors. Coaching is offered at the club; see www.olliestennis.co.uk or email Martyn Taplin on mj.taplin@btinternet.com for further details.

Debbie Lane
Publicity Officer

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

I am pleased to report that the green is very slowly improving, and we are now playing on all four rinks. The results of our league and friendly matches have been mixed, but we have managed to win back the Kent Cup this year which is a pleasing result for us. This is a friendly competition with Havers Park that has been played for many years, stopped only by Covid. The North-West Essex A team is doing fairly

well and the B team has also had a couple of good results recently. The Seniors league and the Ladies Friday leagues are also going well.

The garden around the green is looking very pretty; our hanging baskets are really colourful this year and the planting of our pots and troughs better than ever. We entered Stansted in Bloom this year and, even if the judges didn't agree, I think we deserved special mention!

On 31st July we host the North-West Essex Bowls Association President's Day followed by a meal and we are hoping for good weather. Thanks to everyone in the Club for supporting this and (hopefully) ensuring it is a success. It is not too late to join us and give the game a try; just contact me.

Jeanette Mansell
Secretary

Tel: 07967 033924

Email: jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

During July our management team put the squad through a number of rigorous training sessions and friendly matches in order to have the squad ready to compete from the first game. Supporters will see some new faces in our team as replacements for those who have moved on to higher level clubs. Our busy summer off the field comes to a close with the start of the 2022-23 season. The Essex Senior League kicks off on 30th July followed by matches during August in both the FA Cup and FA Vase. This article has been composed prior to our fixtures being released by the League and we are also awaiting news from the FA as to who our opponents will be in both FA competitions, therefore to our supporters please keep an eye out for fixture news through our social media sites.

The Club committee would like to say a word of thanks to those individuals and organisations that have helped us over the close season: Stansted Sports Association for their financial support in funding the specific projects identified by the FA during their ground grading visit; Stansted Cricket Club for allowing our youth section to hold player trials at Hargrave Park along with Ben Baker regularly cutting the grass on our pitch; Elsenham Youth Football Club, for providing their facility at the airport which allowed our first team squad to complete their pre-season training; and of course our group of trusty volunteers who spent many hours painting and maintaining the infrastructure facilities. Thank you all.



Tom Williams
Secretary

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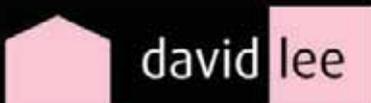
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Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: peterlathamz@outlook.com
Bowls Club	Jeanette Mansell, Hon Secretary Tel: 01371 821446	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 03002 470122 Email: essexwest- hftcentraladminhub @nhs.net
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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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