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# **The Link**





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**Front cover:**

Sonia Blake's entry for  
Stansted in Bloom taken  
by Granville Rush  
enhanced by  
Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

# The Link

[www.stanstedlink.org.uk](http://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](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk) by noon on **9th September** for the October issue or by hand/post by noon on **7th September** to 7 Blythwood Gardens, Stansted CM24 8HG.

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## EDITORIAL



The Stansted in Bloom competition, as well as the Anglia in Bloom event, were held in July this year and there really were some outstanding pictures taken. Many thanks to Penny Reeves and Trevor Lloyd for sending such a variety of glorious pictures, and to Sonia Blake for her perfect floral creation, which graces our front cover this month. It was very difficult for us to choose which to publish in this magazine. You can see a few examples on p 25. An unusual one-page spread is on p 17; our thanks to Yvonne Ayres for this light-hearted quiz about recognition of local views. Sadly, the puzzle page on p 9 is the last one from Cliff Gilbert; please see p 7 for an explanation.

This issue is back to its usual length, I am glad to say. What I notice about it is the tremendous variety of events which appear in the articles. There are the factual new Bus Timetables on p 3, which we hope you will find very helpful; we also have a review of an enterprising group of young people who raised money for Ukraine with their Pop-up Band, see p 4. The local Scouts always look as if they are having huge fun - see the article about their latest adventure below. On p 19 there is a heartfelt plea for help with the Girl Guides, which must be such a rewarding group to work with. Our Arts section returns this month, with a children's concert at Saffron Hall (p 31) and lots of exciting events to choose from at Southmill Arts (p 29). There we are, a short summary of some articles in this issue of The Link; I hope you enjoy reading about them and that you will all enjoy September. It is one of my favourite months – it is often sunny but maybe we hope not this year!



### STANSTED SCOUTS

On a hot sunny afternoon, the Scouts went sailing at Enfield Scout Sailing Association (ESSA) Water Activity Centre on the lagoons at Nazeing. Once they were suitably attired, the safety briefing was given, and it was down to the water. None of the Scouts had been sailing before, but they soon mastered which direction they were going in and despite the gentle breeze (which probably helped) were soon freely moving around the lagoon under the instructors' tuition.



They all did very well and earned a couple of badges whilst having fun in the sun. Several end-of-session jumps off the pontoon rounded off an enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to parents Clare and Daniel for venturing onto the water with them.

Mike Byrne  
Scout Leader  
Tel: 812780

### SHOE BOXES



We have the boxes ready for filling with gifts to light up the faces of children in Eastern Europe and Africa at Christmas. Of course we rely on the generosity of people in Stansted to provide the gifts: toiletries, stationery, knitted items, toys and games, not forgetting a small cuddly toy. The full list will be in next month's Link, and there will be leaflets in the churches and around the village. Next month we will also announce the dates in October that the Free Church will be open for the collection of shoe box items, but in the meantime you can contact one of us for collection.

#### New Blood

We three have been organising the Stansted shoe box packing for a few years, and, with a view to our eventual retirement, would like to hand over to someone younger. We are asking if there is anyone out there who would be willing to get involved with the organisation this year, with a view to taking it over from us in a couple of years. It is a very rewarding thing to do, and would suit a group of friends. Do have a look at [www.teams4u.com](http://www.teams4u.com) to see what amazing projects they have, including in Ukraine. There is further information on the website about shoe boxes as well.

#### Stop Press! Quiz Night

We sent 200 shoe boxes last year. To cover this year's shipping costs we are holding a quiz on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

7.00pm for 7.30pm in St Theresa's Parish Hall.  
Tickets are £7 and available from any of us. Please bring your own refreshments. David Morson will be the quizmaster. We hope to see you there.



Helen Baker Tel: 814865  
Catherine Dean Tel: 813579  
Eileen Quinn Tel: 812109





## DAISY MAY'S FARM

[www.daisymaysfarm.org](http://www.daisymaysfarm.org)

"Oh, I do like to be beside the seaside", but let's face it, it can be a major hassle getting there. Worry not, Daisy May's now has a beach! Come and see us, play in the sand and dip your toes in the stream to cool down. We also have our fabulous woodland campsite, and you can stay in the woodland area or in our camper/caravan paddock where there is lots of space and beautiful scenery. Both options include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and their babies, all for just £25 a night and right on your doorstep. Please message us through our Facebook page to book. We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a picnic area, den building, a woodland trail to explore, themed crafts, refreshments, and ice creams and of course, lots of animals to see!



Most importantly, we are now open every day, so do come and see us. Entry is £5, under 1s free and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family. Please check our Facebook page for up-and-coming events and exciting activities; you don't want to miss out! There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all. Do come and see us over the summer; we can't wait to see you. We are in Hall Road, Elsenham, CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry  
Tel: 07747787973

### 301 AND 7/7A BUS SERVICES

[www.centralconnect.info](http://www.centralconnect.info)

The **301** leaves Clarence Road at 09 past each hour from 07.09 until 22.09; return journey leaves Riverside at 30 minutes past each hour from 06.30 until 21.30.

The **7/7A** times are unchanged, leaving the top of Chapel Hill at: 07.42, 09.24(A), 09.55, 10.55(A), 12.10, 13.20(A), 14.25, 15.15(A), 16.40, 17.40(A) and 18.55. Return journey leaves Riverside at 06.00, 06.39, 08.15, 09.00(A), 10.30, 11.30(A), 12.45, 13.30(A), 15.00, 15.50(A), 17.15, 18.15(A) and 19.30.



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### Pension Credit

Lots of people who are entitled to Pension Credit are not claiming it. This gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you are over state pension age and on a low income; it is *separate from your state pension*. You could also qualify for other financial support, such as Housing Benefit, a free TV licence and other means-tested benefits. You can claim Pension Credit online, over the phone or by post and will qualify for a higher amount if you are severely disabled or a carer. You can easily check if you are eligible online [www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator) or telephone us.

### Benefits for families

Child Benefit gives a big boost to your budget. You can claim this for each child you are responsible for. Payments are tax-free as long as neither parent or carer earns more than £50,000 a year. People who have an income between £50,000 and £60,000 will be taxed but will be better off claiming Child Benefit and paying the tax than not claiming benefit at all. If you are off work looking after your child and not paying National Insurance contributions, then claiming Child Benefit will make sure you get credits towards your state pension. If you have just had a baby, make sure you claim before they are three months old. See [www.gov.uk/child-benefit/how-to-claim](http://www.gov.uk/child-benefit/how-to-claim).

Tel: 01799 618840  
Email: [help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk)

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



We will be holding a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan on **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September** 10.30am-12.30pm at Old Lane House, Church Road. There will be a cake stall and raffle. We do hope you can come, but if you are unable to attend and would like to make a donation to Macmillan you can send us a cheque payable to *Macmillan Cancer Support* or you can donate online using this QR code.



Christine and Bill Stiles  
Tel: 813172

## BRAIN TRAINING

www.clareharding.com

Want to do something differently? Make a better choice? Most decisions we make we take with a minimum of, or no thought at all. 'Shall I have a biscuit/s with my tea?' 'When this happens, I immediately get annoyed.' 'Why am I always so nice to people – why can't I say no?' These decisions happen super quickly. To change, it is a matter of practising how to dab on the brakes and do it differently. It is called inhibition. Last month we explored the letter ball drill of catching the ball with the hand opposite to the hand called,

which practises this inhibition. How to practise inhibition alone? You could download a *Stroop Test* app. It will be variations on this: a word naming a colour pops up as in this picture; the correct answers will be the colour of the printing: blue, pink and green. You will have to overcome the desire to give the answers red, green,

blue. Doesn't that sound simple? To prove that I don't know my onions, download the app, give it a whirl and report back.

There are various forms of the app. The two I use are The Stroop Effect on Apple and Stroop Tests for Science on Android. Find a few minutes a day to do the app and in due course you will find that you can take that nano second to do it differently. This is not going to happen having done the app a mere once or twice! As an added bonus, those of you who exercise on an exercise bike can do the app whilst you are pedalling away. This is called Brain Endurance Training (BET); terrifically effective.

Clare Harding  
Z-Health Master Practitioner  
Tel: 816430

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*We look forward to hearing from you!*

## POP-UP BAND FOR UKRAINE

Whilst enjoying the Music in the Park Event at Bentfield School in July, seven local boys from the school formed their own pop-up rock band to raise money for a Ukraine charity.



Singing and busking with inflatable guitars, microphones and a keyboard to revellers at the music event, the eight-year-olds raised a very admirable £42, much to the surprise of their parents! Thank you to all those who donated to the miniature rockers: Sullivan Newton, Ettore Zancarli, Joe Higley, Joshua Dunn, Stanley Mace, Elliot Cotgreave and Søren Webb. We can assure you it has not gone to their own piggy banks, but to a very good cause.

Elizabeth Newton  
Tel: 07951 776608



## UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our July meeting was former shepherd Robin Plumridge who spoke very entertainingly and movingly; he recounted his beginnings working as an apprentice painter and decorator for his father. He had no aptitude for this, so he became a shepherd - a profession he remained in until his retirement. He gave us numerous examples of the intelligence of sheep including a moving account of a ewe bonding with her lambs. When being transferred to another pen with two of her lambs she refused to leave, much to the frustration and confusion of the trainee vet. Why was she not following the rest of the sheep with their lambs? It turned out that her third lamb was sheltering under the hay. When it was retrieved by the vet, she happily followed the rest!

From one type of bond to another: Jenny Bond! One of our members, Jo Lushey, attended the annual County meeting in Colchester and gave us an informative account of the proceedings. These included the appearance of Jenny Bond, the well-known former BBC royal correspondent, who gave an account of her life as a journalist. A member of Elsenham local history group will be entertaining us at our September meeting on **Wednesday 21st September** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. Why not come along for the afternoon; you would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922



*Grove Cottage in  
the Park*

**12 - 8 pm Sat 3rd Sep**  
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**Crafton Green Car Park**

**12.30 - 4.30 pm Sun 18th Sep**  
**Lower Street Car Park**

## WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

1	Thu	Local History Society	Day Centre 8 pm
3	Sat	Grove Cottage in the Park	Sworders Field, B S 12 - 8 pm
4	Sun	Skatepark Jam	Skatepark, Lower St 11 am - 4.30 pm
		Green Waste Skips	Crafton Grn Car Pk 12.30 - 4.30 pm
		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
		Open Sunday	St Mary's Church 2 - 5 pm
6	Tue	Stansted is well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
7 & 21	Wed	Bereavement Café	Day Centre 10 - 11.30 am
7	Wed	Mountfitchet Garden Club	Day Centre 7.30 pm
8	Thu	WI	Day Centre 7.15 for 7.30 pm
9	Fri	Link copy due in today	<b>before noon</b>
13	Tue	RSPB	Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
17	Sat	Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
		U3A Open Day	St John's Church 2 pm
18	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Pk 12.30 - 4.30 pm
21	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2.15 pm
24	Sat	Flu Jabs	Stansted Surgery
25	Sun	Gardens Open	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
		S W Symphony Orchestra	Saffron Hall 3 pm
30	Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Old Lane House 10.30 am - 12.30 pm



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[www.ugleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.ugleyvillage.org.uk)

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**Sun 25th Sep**

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Web: [www.quendonosteopathy.co.uk](http://www.quendonosteopathy.co.uk)

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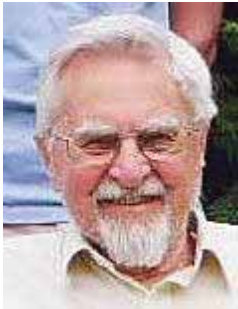
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## CLIFF GILBERT

The Link team was very sad to hear of the passing of Cliff in early August, aged 93. This wonderful man was responsible for numerous contributions to the magazine over the years, and we are so very grateful to him for these.



He wrote insightful short essays, many of which were written and submitted to The Link during Covid lockdowns when articles were thin on the ground. He also created tough crossword puzzles and tricky quizzes with which to challenge our brains. On page 9 you will see a crossword and quiz which Cliff wrote and submitted to us in May of this year; sadly these are the last of his contributions to the magazine.

I leave you with a couple of suitable brain teasers, the answers to which are in this article:

- What's eating \_\_\_\_\_ Grape?
- What the earwig fell over \_\_\_\_\_

Cliff - thank you so much, we will miss you and your contributions very much indeed, and we would like to send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family; you must be so very proud of him.



Editor

## STANSTED LIBRARY

[www.libraries.essex.gov.uk](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk)

With the busy summer holiday coming to an end and lots of children receiving their medals and certificates from completing this year's *Summer Reading Challenge*, we are moving into another busy month of activities. *Story time* will begin in Stansted library for Early Years Foundation Stage children on Thursdays 3.30pm-4.00pm. Join us to listen to an exciting story or two every week. Coming up in October we will be joining in with other libraries across the country to celebrate Libraries Week, **3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October**, plus we will be hosting our next *Love your Libraries Day* on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October** with a sustainability theme this time.

The Parish Council is now manning the front desk in the library 9.00am-2.00pm on the mornings when library staff are not present. The self-service machine will be switched on for issue, renewal and returning books allowing customers greater access to the library facility. Any queries however will need to be addressed to library staff during normal library opening hours.

Susannah Freeman  
Deputy Library Supervisor  
Email: [stansted.library@essex.gov.uk](mailto:stansted.library@essex.gov.uk)



## RSPB

[www.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley](http://www.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley)

Our annual break for August has just finished and we are looking forward to the start of our programme. This is our first full year since Covid and we anticipate upcoming events with optimism. Our activities have been well supported and our membership has boomed. We are and always will be a friendly and welcoming group where the enjoyment of birds and nature in general is paramount. Steve Magennis will be presenting *A Birdwatcher's Year* at our first meeting. Steve is a renowned Associate of the Royal Photographic Society, a photographer with many published wildlife images, and he will get our year off to an entertaining and interesting start. The meeting is on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA (next to Tesco).



Details of the meeting and all future events and activities can be found on our website, which has been completely redesigned and substantially improved, and is the place to go for up-to-date information. The plan is to continually develop our website, and feedback would be welcome. This is just one of several RSPB initiatives that are aimed at developing the organisation and its aims. Another example is the new logo which has recently been introduced. In the next few months, you will see further evidence of how the RSPB is evolving to meet the immense challenges to nature. As a group we will be responding to this at a local level. I hope you will be able to join us in having fun, enjoying birds and nature and facing the challenges ahead.

Peter Allen  
Tel: 07876 295456  
Email: [peter2349@sky.com](mailto:peter2349@sky.com)



## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club is currently on its summer break, but we will be restarting on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September** at 7.00pm in St John's Church Hall. If you would like to learn more about attending or volunteering for the Club, please do get in touch.

Ellen Brooks  
Tel: 07800 896516  
Email: [ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk)



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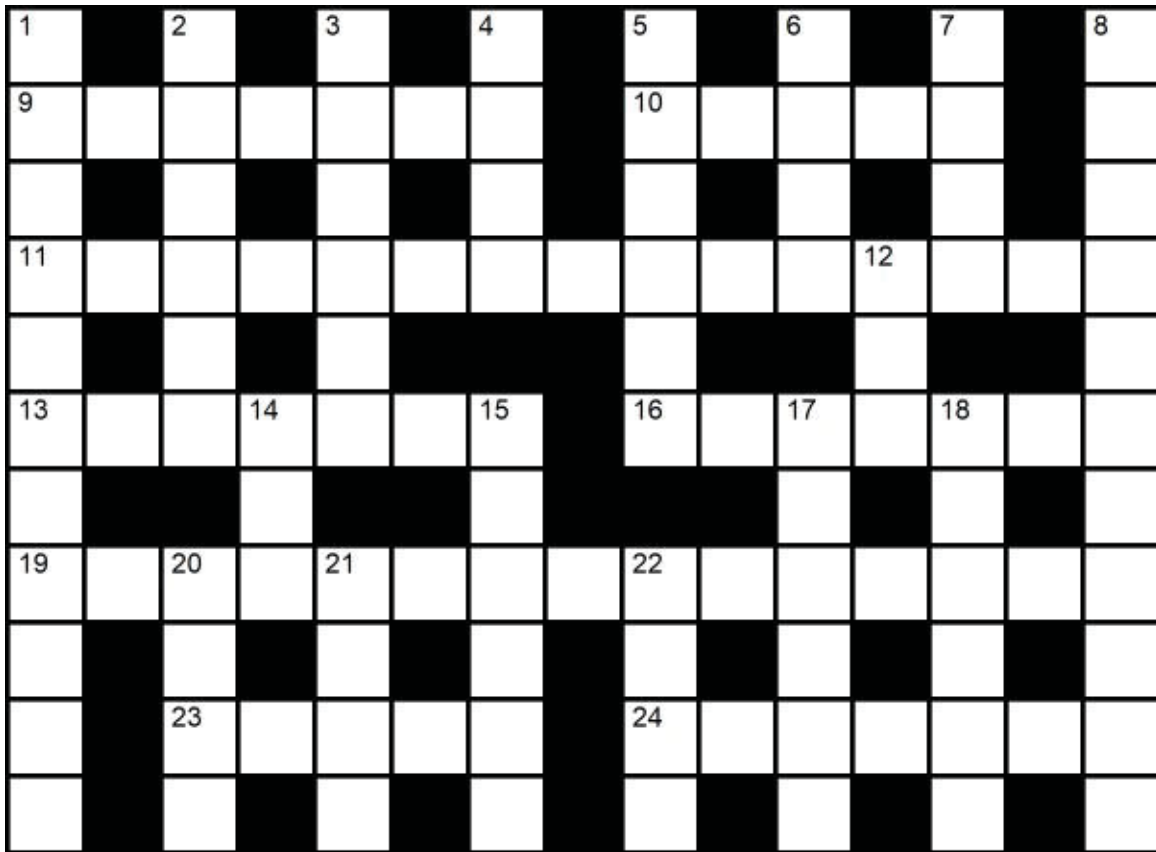

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## FUN AND GAMES PUZZLE TIME



Crossword Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 31

### ACROSS

- 9 Landlocked European state (7)
- 10 Area of interest (5)
- 11 CEO of a NGO (8-7)
- 13 Small, hard-shelled seeds (7)
- 16 Robin Hood's weapon of choice (7)
- 19 An expert in all farming (15)
- 23 Dance to recorded music (5)
- 24 Intelligent cetacean (7)

### DOWN

- 1 Al fresco social gathering (6,5)
- 2 Vivacity, wit (6)
- 3 Female priest of ancient Greece (6)
- 4 A gambling card game (4)
- 5 Sparing (6)
- 6 Precipitation (4)
- 7 Arab aristocrat (4)
- 8 Wyoming National Park (11)
- 12 Unit of energy (3)
- 14 Hawaiian garland (3)
- 15 Not often (6)
- 17 Almost (6)
- 18 Casual and uncaring (6)
- 20 Fairground attraction (4)
- 21 Barrel (4)
- 22 Reverse action (4)

### SHIPS QUIZ - Fact and Fiction

- 1 Which Royal Navy ship is moored near Tower Bridge?
- 2 On which ship did Jim Hawkins travel to Treasure Island?
- 3 Name the two ships on which mutinies occurred, one real in 1789, the other fictional in 1944
- 4 In which stretch of water did Henry VIII's ship, Mary Rose, sink in 1545?
- 5 Who is master of The Black Pig?
- 6 How did the German battleship Admiral Graf Spee meet its end, and where?
- 7 Which comic opera is subtitled *The Lass That Loved a Sailor*?
- 8 Which ship rescued 703 lifeboat survivors of the Titanic?
- 9 Which ship was used to explore Australia, and two centuries later to explore space?
- 10 Which boat did Rose and Charlie use in attempting to sink the gunboat Konigin Luise?

Compiled by Cliff Gilbert. Answers on page 31




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## HARVEST IN STANSTED

Readers of this publication may recall a very active and lively front cover last October, of farmers bringing in their crops. The photograph was taken by Peter Webb and he has kindly sent some more pictures this year. The first interesting point is that this year's photos were taken right at the beginning of August, which is incredibly early to harvest crops in our area. This must be due to the high temperatures experienced this summer.



As he says, these photos are a good reminder that Stansted is a rural village; it is so important to limit development around the village boundary (ie Pennington Lane, Bollington Hall etc). Farm machinery is seen and heard up and down Bentfield Causeway, making its way to the many farms which lie to the north west of Stansted. These photos were taken in the fields at the rear of Blythwood Gardens.



Peter points out how very lucky it is that the regulations changed many years ago, and farmers are no longer allowed to burn stubble in the fields; can you imagine how dangerous that would be in a summer such as this one?!



Ed



[www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk](http://www.mountfitchetgardenclub.co.uk)

### August Meeting

Originally booked to speak to the Club in 2020 when Covid struck, members enjoyed the long-awaited talk called *Seeds - Spread to Survive* by Anne Lauder. Using a PowerPoint presentation, photographs of seeds were enlarged and seen in detail. How plants have adapted to their surroundings, temperature and fauna was explained and discussed. Anne showed the different methods used by plants, trees and shrubs to spread their seeds. Some are spread by wind or water, or by birds and animals digesting the berries and depositing the seeds some distance away; others hook onto animals or clothes (the *velcro* seeds), and others shoot their seeds away from the mother plant, as much as 200 ft away!

### Green Bowl Photographic Competition

Winner Ewelina May, runner-up Maralyn Harris.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September** 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Day Centre. George Lockwood will be presenting *Flowering Shrubs for each month-September and October*. Visitors are always welcome and membership is available.

Maralyn Harris  
Chairman  
Tel: 07919 478144



### 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](mailto:recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This is a reminder to members of the Society that the 2022-2023 season begins on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September**, with Tony Crosby talking about *Chelmsford's Industrial Trail*. Please see the August issue of The Link for further topics and speakers. Meetings are held in the Crafton Green Centre, off Chapel Hill at 8.00pm.

Ed

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## Stansted Quaker Meeting House

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[www.ugleyvillage.org.uk](http://www.ugleyvillage.org.uk)

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**For bookings or further information please contact Susan Bone  
Tel: 01279 814052 Email: [ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com)**

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## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

One pleasurable autumn task is the harvesting of ripened fruits from trees in your own garden. For most of us, our cooking apple will be a *Bramley's Seedling* and the dessert apple an Essex-bred *Discovery* or a *Cox's Orange Pippin*. Originating from central Asia, apples are incredibly varied with at least 2,000 named varieties! There are 150 named varieties in the gardens at Audley End. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the skilled horticulturalists at the Rivers Nursery at Sawbridgeworth bred and propagated many varieties of fruit trees, including the prolific *Czar plum* and *Conference pear*, both of which are still available today. The *Conference pear* features in Great Chesterford's 21<sup>st</sup>- century community orchard.



*Audley End House, ripening pippin*

For commercial reasons, the range available from modern plant nurseries is limited to a few easy-to-grow varieties. However, hidden away in forgotten corners of long-established gardens within the Hundred Parishes there are specimens of heritage varieties of orchard trees. If you have a flavoursome, but unidentified, variety, then the East of England Apples and Orchards Project would be delighted to hear from you; see [www.applesandorchards.org.uk](http://www.applesandorchards.org.uk) email: [info@applesandorchards.org.uk](mailto:info@applesandorchards.org.uk) or call 01328 838403. There is something special about growing a unique or local variety, so if you wish to plant heritage fruit trees specific to your own county, the organisation's catalogue lists a surprising number of varieties for Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire apples and pears, as well as local plums, cherries and gages. This wide selection provides an opportunity to continue a long tradition of choosing something rather special to enjoy eating in future years. The *What's On* page of our website often displays local apple events, for example on **Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September** at Rivers Orchard in Sawbridgeworth, and on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** at The Gardens of Easton Lodge.

Tricia Moxey  
Trustee  
Tel: 01277 364522



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

During July our churchyard was visited as part of the Anglia in Bloom competition. I met with the four judges and talked about the work we have been doing to make the churchyard an inviting and peaceful open space for our many visitors and how we are addressing the varied wild creatures which live here. We have bird boxes in the trees and are thrilled that our owl box had babies in it too. I also told them about the research we have been doing into the gravestones and remembering the people buried here. I showed them my research so far and I think they were impressed!

Some of you with loved ones in the churchyard have already given me photographs and told me their stories. It is wonderful to remember the person and not just see a stone. Each and every one of those stones represents a person and there are so many stories to tell. If you want to include your loved one in my file, I would be more than happy to hear from you. Equally, if you would like to come for a churchyard tour to learn about all these wonderful people do come along and I will gladly tell you all. Our next Open Sunday is on **4<sup>th</sup> September** 2.00pm-5.00pm with refreshments available. I look forward to welcoming you.



Lynda Dale  
Tel: 07716 099474



## CHRISTIAN AID

[www.christianaid.org](http://www.christianaid.org)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christian Aid Week appeal. This was from Stansted churches and via the online E-envelope, and we raised £413.75. A combination of Covid-19, climate change causing the worst drought in 40 years, and sky-high food prices caused by the conflict in Ukraine, has resulted in widespread hunger and death in East Africa. Thanks to the generosity of donors, Christian Aid is supporting 300,000 people in this region but there is always more to be done. Donations can be made all year round via the above website. Thank you.



Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the July draw:

£200	No 102	June Winter
£100	No 27	Janice McDonald
£50	No 134	Laura Higley
£25	No 80	Isabel Thwaites

The draw for September will be held on **25<sup>th</sup> September** 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 £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

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

I still remember the long hot summer of 1976. I was 9 years old, and my memories largely involve playing football in the park, and my mother insisting I drink plenty of water. I do not recollect sun cream being a thing, but I do recall my father being very concerned about the grass and the garden. I remember in church we were asked to pray for rain, and it did. Now we have had another long hot summer and whilst I have played a lot less football, I have been the one concerned about the grass and the garden. Without water everything withers and dies. It may look okay for a while, but eventually it all dies without water. Water is a precious resource which we, in this country, are often guilty of taking for granted.

In John's gospel we read two statements Jesus made about himself.

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*

*Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

Jesus used these pictures to help us understand both our need of him (it is like being thirsty and needing water) and his ability to satisfy our spiritual thirst through the Holy Spirit. I do not want my spiritual life to look like my lawn – dry, dead and disappointing. I want it to be flourishing and full of life. Unlike my hosepipe, there is no restriction on anyone having relationship with Jesus, and there is no shortage; he will satisfy anyone who asks.



Howard Page  
Family Church



[www.stanstedfamilychurch.co.uk](http://www.stanstedfamilychurch.co.uk)



## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist/URC  
Chapel Hill

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Contact** Howard and Ros Page  
Tel: 810813  
Email: [stanstedfamily@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedfamily@gmail.com)

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

Our mid-week church meeting, *The Vine*, returns fortnightly in September. Regular members receive email updates on dates, venues and any changes. If you wish to attend any meeting for the first time, you will be very welcome - but please contact us to have the venue/time confirmed. All meetings are now entirely in-person, although it is possible to join us online if that's easier. 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

**Secretary** Betty Francis  
Tel: 813977  
Email: [betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:betty@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for September

4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Church Anniversary
11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tina Wilson
25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Charles Martin

*The Place on the Hill* for adults only and *Fun Place on the Hill* for all ages are open every Wednesday and Friday respectively; see separate articles for further details.

### Hall Bookings

We have some availability for new regular bookings, both daytime and evening, from September. Please contact Marion as above for more information.







All enquiries: The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
including Church St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
Hall bookings Tel: 815243 (with answerphone)  
Office hours: Monday 2.00pm-4.00pm  
Thursday and Friday 10.00am-12.00  
Email:  
st.johns.church@btinternet.com  
Website: www.thefivechurches.org.uk

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

**Associate Priest** Rev'd Helen Flack  
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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)  
9.30am  
Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)  
9.30am

## 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

## From St John's Registers

### July

#### Baptisms

3<sup>rd</sup> Bailey Rose April Bruce  
17<sup>th</sup> Rudy Chad Martin

There were no weddings or funerals in July

## CATHOLIC

St Therese of Lisieux  
High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ  
www.sttheresastansted.org

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

#### Masses

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

**Baptism** by appointment

We are delighted to welcome Fr Liam Hayes who is joining us as our new Parish Priest from September. Fr Liam was born in London, ordained for our Diocese of Brentwood in 1999, and has served as a priest in the parishes of Hornchurch, Colchester, Walthamstow and Manor Park. He has also worked as a Theology Adviser with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) for over 16 years. This has seen him accompany and work with theologians, volunteers and colleagues across each of the catholic dioceses of England and Wales and travel to many of CAFOD's partners in Africa, Asia and South America. Fr Liam completed his doctoral research at the University of London in 2017 and is currently the Director of the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics at the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology in Cambridge. He will continue in this rôle when he joins the parish and is very much looking forward to becoming part of the wider local community and working alongside other faith communities.

#### Masses

We are currently reviewing our weekday Mass times. Please check our website and Facebook page for any updates or changes to Mass. We look forward to welcoming you to our Parish.



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# VILLAGE VIEWS

I have enjoyed lots of different walks in and around Stansted since moving here over 40 years ago and thought I would share some photos, taken at different times of the year, from some of my favourite ones. Can work out the location of each one?

## Clues:

1. This wood is very private but full of beautiful bluebells
2. An unchanging view, apart from the traffic!
3. An area prone to flooding along a favourite dog-walking route
4. Timeless vista, over the gate, on the edge of Stansted
5. Quite close to Nancy Tennant's old home

Yvonne Ayres



1



2



3



4



5

*Answers on page 31*



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## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

[www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk](http://www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk)

A reminder of our fête on Bank Holiday **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August** 1.00-5.00pm round the mill and on the Recreation Ground.

If you passed the mill during the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> July you would have noticed a lot of aerial activity as our millwrights fitted stock clamps to the sails. The process involved a lot of manual winching to lift the heavy clamps 50 ft up until they could be attached and held in place by four specially made galvanised steel shackles. Each pair took a day to fit, so by the end of Tuesday both pairs of stock clamps were in place. Thankfully, it was the week before the record temperatures but it was still very warm; it was a particularly impressive effort from all involved. On the Wednesday and Thursday new wind boards and 16 new shutters were installed. All the shutter bays are filled; there are no gaps now and as a result the sails should turn in lighter wind than they did before. Further details and photographs are available on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Standed.Windmill](http://www.facebook.com/Standed.Windmill).



The mill is open to visitors on **Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> September and 2<sup>nd</sup> October**.

Trevor Lloyd  
Email: [info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk](mailto:info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk)  
Tel: 810805

## STANSTED SURGERY

[www.thestanstedsurgery.nhs.uk](http://www.thestanstedsurgery.nhs.uk)

### Flu Jabs

Our first planned flu clinic will be on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**, times to be confirmed. This clinic will be for our patients only and we will also be able to offer Covid vaccinations for those who are eligible at the same time, as the vaccinations can be given together, one in each arm. Appointment opening is still to be confirmed; please see our website or contact the surgery for details.

Aimee Barritt  
Deputy Practice Manager  
Tel: 813200



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### Grove Cottage in the Park

Offering something for everyone, come along on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** noon-8.00pm to Sworders Field, Bishop's Stortford. There will be a Food and Drink Festival with a wide variety of food and drink stalls including Ques Idea Mexican Kitchen, Smok'n Greek, Amerio's Bar, The Really Good Sausage Co and Waffle and Floss. There will also be a selection of live music from local bands including Livewire Rock Academy, De Rosa, Grove Cottage Performing Arts Club, Woodwind of Stortford, Bishop's Stortford Gospel Choir, Steve Young and the Real Time Players and a Kids' Zone to entertain younger members of the family.

At 6.00pm, stand-up comedy legend and actor Paddy Lennox will be taking centre stage with his mischievous sense of humour. Paddy runs two comedy clubs locally, *The Great Dunmow Comedy Club* and *The Laughing Bishops Comedy Club* in Bishop's Stortford. Both run once a month and often sell out due to the top-quality comedians performing from the UK Comedy Circuit. He also tours the UK performing at comedy clubs across the country. Finally, local rock cover band *The Lackeys* will headline the event with a range of hits from the 1950s to the present day. Tickets £5, children under 12 free, available from our website or on the gate.

Alison Cameron  
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## GIRLGUIDING

### Volunteers Needed

Here is a great opportunity to give young girls the chance to learn new skills and experiences, make friends and have fun. It would take 1-1½ hours a week, during the term only. If you are up for the challenge, we have various units in the area looking for volunteers; some units require new leaders and assistant leaders to keep them open. Anyone offering to be a leader will have continued support locally and from Girlguiding whilst working towards a leadership qualification.

If you fancy a new venture and are happy to work with 5-18 year-olds, then please get in touch. We have Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units waiting for you to come and volunteer with them so please consider joining a thriving organisation.

Jennifer Jarvis  
District Commissioner  
Tel: 07900 123917  
Email: [pajemiki@outlook.com](mailto:pajemiki@outlook.com)

# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS

## PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

...with news of Skatepark Jam 2022, efforts to introduce restrictions on HGV traffic, a consultation with Foresthall residents on the merits of possible waiting restrictions on the estate, plus an update on progress being made to revamp recreational spaces in the south of the village



### STANSTED SKATEPARK JAM 2022

The skatepark in Lower Street car park once again plays host to arguably Uttlesford's premier skateboarding event. The day-long Stansted Skatepark Jam on Sunday, September 4 has a busy schedule of competitions to get through:

- 11:00 - Under 10s
- 11:30 - Scooter
- 12:45 - Inline
- 13:45 - Skateboards
- 15:00 - BMXs

There will be a sound system, while caterers I Am Dumpling will be serving up food. If the sunny blue skies of 2021 are repeated, the sight of the ice cream van will no doubt go down well with the crowds of attendees and competitors.

Stansted's Skatejam has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Hundreds now turn out to watch the park's top skateboard, BMX and rollerblade talent compete each year. So much so that the event's organiser, Seann Tompson, is being tapped for tips and advice by representatives

from other authorities in the district keen to replicate the event's success for their own communities.

Putting on the Skatejam would be impossible without businesses and individuals stepping forward to back the event. Seann and the Parish Council would like to thank sponsors of the Skatejam. They include Yeoman's Cafe, Mix Wine bar, Seventies Distribution, Tall Order BMX, Federal Bikes, Dead Sailor BMX, Grind BMX, Emtrex Garms, OCB Clothing, Axtex, District, Dominator and Dogg Scooters.

### LORRY RESTRICTIONS INCH FORWARD

The much discussed introduction of weight restrictions on roads into Stansted to reduce the volume of HGVs passing through the village is inching closer to reality.

Lorry traffic through Stansted, especially along Grove Hill and Chapel Hill, has been a long standing source of complaint for Parish Councillors and residents alike. In December's Link we informed readers of Essex Highways' proposal to tackle the problem.

Their preferred solution calls for the use of camera technology to monitor lorries passing through Stansted. The cameras would identify HGVs exceeding weight limits so vehicle owners could be penalised.

At the Parish Council's last Highways Sub-committee in July, Essex County Councillor Ray Gooding updated on the scheme's progress. He reported that the Uttlesford Local Highway Panel will fund a £25k feasibility study to assess whether weight restrictions in Stansted would impact negatively on nearby roads. It is expected the scheme will encompass all entry roads (bar the B1383) and will require the erection of advanced warnings signs.

One barrier must be overcome before the cameras can be rolled out. Remote hand-held cameras, as well as ones in fixed locations, are seen as the best option for enforcing the scheme, but their use requires Parliamentary approval. Waiting for the necessary nod from Westminster could take time.





## POTHOLE REPAIRS

*Ray Gooding reports Essex County Council has funds spare for pothole repairs. Email the county councillor your suggestions for the most pressing ones to be filled at [cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk)*



## ZEBRA CROSSING FOR SILVER STREET

**F**ast-moving traffic can be perilous for pedestrians crossing from one side to the other of Silver Street. The Parish Council at the start of 2022 submitted an application for a pelican crossing to be constructed near Blythwood Gardens. Uttlesford Local Highway Panel has instead decided to sign off on a zebra crossing for Silver Street, rather than a pelican crossing. A time-frame for the installation of the zebra crossing has yet to be announced, but work on its design is underway.

Meanwhile, plans by the Parish Council to improve the flow of traffic further up from Silver Street, along Cambridge Road, sat with Essex Highways for several years after they were submitted. The design team at Essex Highways recently notified the Parish Council that for reasons of affordability the scheme - which included the creation of a parking bay near the Wood Grill - will not go ahead.

## WAITING RESTRICTION SCHEMES

**A**t the last Full Council meeting before the August recess, Parish Councillors ratified the recommendation by the Highway Sub-committee not to proceed with an application to the North Essex Parking Partnership for a Residents' Parking Scheme on the Mountfitchet Estate.

Red lines may still be introduced on certain road junctions on the estate to ensure bus routes remain passable and safe. **The Parish Council wishes to clarify that parking on grass verges on the corners where red lines exist will not be permitted. Car owners who do so risk a ticket.**

The application for waiting restrictions on the Mountfitchet Estate to the NEPP required a process of consultation with residents by the Parish Council. Now a similar exercise is needed to assess support for the introduction of waiting restrictions on the Foresthall Park estate.

As a first step a working group consisting of 3 councillors and 3 residents is to be set up to oversee the consultation process. Options will be set out to resolve traffic and parking issues affecting Foresthall. The consultation will offer an avenue for residents to feedback their views on any proposed measures. The Parish Council will publish details on the consultation process on its website as well on its social media channels. Residents directly affected by any proposed options will also be letter dropped to ensure they have every means of having their voice heard.



## SEARCH FOR FIREWORKS SITE

**T**he Events Working Group continues to explore options for a site to host the village fireworks. Stansted has limited spots suitable for an event of this kind. Health and Safety requirements dictate a location be large enough to accommodate the large crowds, that is not too close to homes, trees and vegetation to pose a fire risk, while having sufficient road access for the emergency services. In 2021 the Parish Council lost access to its traditional site at Forest Hall School. Other sites put forward last year did not meet the criteria but a different site has been suggested and is being looked at. Look out for an announcement if a site has been found in next month's edition of The Link.

## TRIM TRAIL FOR WILKIN'S CRESCENT

**L**ast month's installation of a trim trail in the play area of Wilkin's Crescent marked the end point in the Parish Council's project to improve the play areas and recreational spaces of Foresthall Park.

The process of improvement got under way in May 2021 with a consultation of residents near the play spaces of Reeve Road, Walson Way and Wilkin's Crescent. Since then significant investment has been made in play equipment and furniture for all three locations.

Community project grants from Uttlesford District Council, money from the Welcome Back Fund along with use of Section 106 money for the Foresthall estate has been used to buy benches, picnic tables, and a trim trail as well as to pay for the re-introduction of play equipment that had been previously removed from the Reeve Road play areas. The trim trail at Wilkin's Crescent has gone down well with youngsters during the school summer holidays since it opened.

A good deal of headway has also been made in rejuvenating nearby Mountfitchet Green. Here money from the Welcome Back Fund, which aims to help communities in their post-Pandemic recovery, and other grants, have been invested in new benches, a picnic table, a zipwire, and a disability swing. Other improvements over the last 12 months include the repainting of lines of the Multi Use Games Area, and the purchase of new nets for the MUGA's basketball hoops.



## WELL DONE, EMMA

*Congratulations to Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick whose 11 month's of hard work paid off with news she had passed her CiLCA qualification and is now a certified Parish Clerk!*



And the improvements will not end there. The Parish Council has been working closely with the Essex Forest Initiative to co-ordinate work to fill out the hedges around the Green. In the future the Essex Forest Initiative is to plant several trees in this location too.

The pace of regeneration will hopefully pick up again once Uttlesford District Council finalise issuing a lease to the Parish Council for Mountfitchet Green. Once this is issued we can consider further improvements to the Green as a whole.



## DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



**Melvin Caton**  
District Councillor  
reports



### Stansted Airport Appeal Decision Review Report

Many Uttlesford Councillors suffered a profound shock on the first day of Stansted Airport Ltd's appeal against Uttlesford's Planning Committee's decision to refuse the planning application for the airport to expand up to 43 million passengers per annum. District Councillors were astonished when the council's legal representative told the Inquiry that Uttlesford would now agree to the application's approval, subject to certain conditions, known overall as "Condition 15".

As Stansted residents will know, the upshot of this *volte-face* to the Planning Inspectors granting approval for the expansion and awarding costs against the council, on the basis of its unreasonable behaviour by causing a costly appeal at which UDC didn't defend its decision to refuse planning permission. A further costly legal appeal by the council to the High Court asking for the inspectors' decision to be overturned was dismissed by the judge on the grounds that the case was "unarguable". Recently the District Council has made an offer of £1.4m to Stansted Airport to cover their costs. This was on top of the £1m+ that the council had spent determining the application and fighting the appeal. It is not yet known whether the airport will accept this offer. After the appeal process ended, District Councillors agreed to set up a group to review how the planning process went so disastrously wrong, and was so badly run, it would seem.

In July the council considered a report from a planning lawyer who said the Planning Committee had acted "politically" and the decision-making process used in preparing the appeal case was flawed. The report said there was systemic failure at both officer and political level. Some councillors said that the report was incomplete and missed out several key pieces of information.

The report also said the appeal strategy should have been considered by an Emergency Meeting of Council, but no

such meeting was called. A sorry saga! Cllr Alan Dean has written about the shortcomings of the review on his blog: [alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk](http://alandean.mycouncillor.org.uk)

### Uttlesford population increased by 14.1%

The 2021 Census results showed the population of Uttlesford increased from 79,000 to 91,300 between 2011 and 2021. This is higher than the overall increase in England of 6.6%. Both East Herts and South Cambridgeshire increased by around 9%. For more information, see [www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E070077/](http://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/E070077/)

### Local Plan consultation finally commences on 2nd November

There is no doubt that the population of the district will continue to grow rapidly as the new Local Plan for the period up to 2040 has to comply with a Government target of building 706 houses each year in the district.

The delayed draft of a new Local Plan, which will indicate where the District Council leadership consider the new houses should be built, is now due to go out for consultation on the 2nd November. It was originally due to appear in May. We already know Stansted Mountfitchet has been identified as one of the three main Rural Centres in the district.

### Planning service remains designated

The government has written to the District Council recently advising that the Development Control function will continue to be designated in respect of the consideration of major planning applications in Uttlesford.

The original decision to designate the council was made in February and related to the number of major applications overturned on appeal over a rolling two-year period. It means that applications for major development – more than 10 houses or over 1 hectare – can be made directly to the Planning Inspectorate, although applicants still have the option of applying to the council in the usual way should they wish. It is unlikely that the designation will be lifted in the near future.

### Cost of living crisis

The council has recently provided additional Council Tax benefit worth at least £100 to some of our least well off local residents. This is on top of similar changes Cllr Khan successfully proposed for other groups in need at the budget meeting in February, all as part of the Council's local contribution to combating the Cost of Living crisis everyone is facing. The council is also out to public consultation on continuing with the most generous Council Tax relief scheme in the whole county, under which some of the worst off local people get 87.5% knocked off their Council Tax bills – so please let Uttlesford know what you think about this at [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7926/Have-your-say-on-council-tax-support-scheme](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7926/Have-your-say-on-council-tax-support-scheme).



**Fête Grants:** The Jubilee events in June raised more than £3,320.78. The Parish Council has donated this sum to the Stansted Trust Fund, which provides grant funding to community groups and individuals in the village.



# STANSTED PARISH COUNCIL

## STAFF

Clerk Ruth Clifford, Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick  
Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen  
Communications Officer Dan Schlanker  
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Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm  
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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 agenda 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.

- **September 7** Open Spaces
- **September 14** Full Council
- **September 21** Finance & General Purposes

## PARISH COUNCILLORS

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## ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

## POLICE

Special Police Constable Steve Dale  
email: stephen.dale@essex.police.uk  
PCSO 81764 Alex Stewart  
email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk  
Non-urgent incidents call: 101 Serious incidents call: 999  
www.essex.police.uk/ro/report; Community engagement events at the Day Centre - September 8 & 29

## LIBRARY

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

## GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The garden waste skip service will be in Crafton Green Car Park (note change of venue) on Sunday 4th September and in Lower Street Car Park on Sunday 18th September. Both dates 12.30pm-4.30pm.

## VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

Defibrillators in yellow on the map are accessible 24/7. Call Emergency Services for an access code. Defibrillators in orange are only available during the working hours of the establishment they are sited at.



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## STANSTED IN BLOOM

There were 42 entries across six categories and the organisers and judges were really pleased with the response and quality of the gardens. Judges particularly enjoyed meeting the entrants who were keen to share their enthusiasm for their gardens. The awards were presented on 20<sup>th</sup> July in the Touchpoint Community Garden. The prize-winning gardens are shown below.



*Front Garden Alan Whitehead*



*Fruit and Vegetables Dave and Ann Perry*



*Baskets and Containers Terry and Beryl Potter*



*Communal Area Mountfitchet House*



*Large Garden Dave and Ann Perry*



*Small Garden Jacqui Kinnison*

*Photographs by Granville Rush*

## ANGLIA IN BLOOM

Judges John Crawley and David White were in the village on 20<sup>th</sup> July to judge our entry in this year's competition. Their guided tour of the village included: Touchpoint Community Garden, Stansted Windmill, Blythwood Gardens/Silver Street, Memorial Gardens, Mountfitchet House Care Home, Human Roots community allotment, Elms Farm allotments and St Mary's Churchyard. They made lots of positive comments about the village and people they met. The results will be announced on 7<sup>th</sup> September. In 2021 we received a silver award for our virtual entry but this the first time judges have toured the village.

Trevor Lloyd



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It is difficult to write news ahead of time in these very unusual times. Last year we were probably hoping for an Indian Summer, after regular rain from May through to August, including rain on every Open Day. This year we have experienced record sunshine and drought, made somewhat better by a record plum harvest. Our volunteers are doing their best to keep the gardens looking good, despite the challenges, so that hopefully by September we will still have plenty to enjoy. We should still have perennials and dahlias providing good colour in the Italian Garden and the walled kitchen garden. Lots of squashes should be nestled amongst their green leaves and the apple season will be upon us.



We are open to visitors on Thursdays in September 11.00am-3.00pm, with refreshments and our garden produce on sale. Advance tickets are not required. On **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** it is our Apples and Bees Open Day. That is always one of our favourites, with apple juicing, apple ID, apple and honey cakes, a bee colony on show and our jam and jelly tombola. For the first time we are hoping to have our own cider on sale too. There will be music and we will be joined by friends from the East of England Apples and Orchards Project and from Cressing Temple; we will also have plant, honey, craft and wildlife stalls. Gates open at 11.00am; tickets are available in advance from our website or on the gate.

Jill Goldsmith  
Tel: 07947 183439

## STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book group will be on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September** at 8.00pm at the Dog and Duck, Lower Street where we will be discussing *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. *Hamnet*, winner of the 2020 Women's Prize for Fiction, is a novel inspired by the son of William Shakespeare: a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, but whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays ever written. 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

## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

The title of our talk at our meeting in July was *Boom and Bust in Medieval Lavenham*. Jane Gosling, former National Trust manager of the Guildhall in Lavenham and director of the Suffolk Architectural Heritage Trust, explained how the fortunes of picturesque Lavenham derived from weaving its own best-selling brand of sturdy cloth dyed a distinctive shade of blue. The clothiers became very wealthy men and the town became a hub of prosperity and employment; it drew in supplies of raw wool from other areas of the country and beyond. However, their heyday was short-lived as in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the market became flooded with finer, more fashionable Flemish cloths imported from the Low Countries. The sudden loss of income meant that the clothiers' fine timber houses were never pulled down and replaced according to the taste of subsequent centuries though some had Georgian or Victorian facades applied.

The u3a will have a stand at the Windmill Fête on Bank Holiday Monday so do call by and have a chat. We are holding an open day on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September** 2.00pm-5.00pm in St John's Church. We hope that you will come along and find out about the many interesting groups that you can join as a member of the u3a. One of them is the u3a Choir, conducted by Isobel Bradshaw, who will be presenting *Stansted Sings for You* on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October** at 7.30pm in St John's Church. Tickets: £10 to include a glass of wine, under 14s £5 available from Jean on 850275 or Susie on 07803 802617. Parking is available in the Magna Carta School car park behind the church and Crafton Green car park at the top of Chapel Hill.

Eileen Quinn  
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



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## September Events

We have many wonderful events taking place this month. Here are a few to whet your appetite:

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> 7.30pm £24 *The British Carpenters***

A brand-new production from the same people who brought you *GO NOW! The Music of The Moody Blues*.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.30pm £24 *Upbeat Beatles***

Did you miss The Beatles first time around? Don't miss them now!

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm £7.50 *Elvis - Cinema***

The life of American music icon Elvis Presley, from his childhood to becoming a rock and movie star in the 1950s.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Free *Storytime: What if you had a pet Dinosaur?*** Join us at the Museum. Enjoy a story, songs and some colouring or craft. No need to book tickets.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm £24 *Uncle Funk's Disco Inferno*** The UK's biggest and best live 70s disco band return after their previous sell-out performances.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm £23.50 *A Night at the Musicals*.** The Opera Boys return with their sell-out show featuring the biggest songs from the West End and Broadway.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm and 7.00pm *Joyride - Cinema***

An Irish comedy drama film in which a boy accidentally ends up on the run with a woman and her baby. Rating: 15, Starring: Olivia Colman, Charlie Reid, Lochlann O Mearain

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm £24 *Henry Blofeld - My Dear Old Things*.** Blowers recalls his days as a young England hopeful, how an Eton bus knocked him off his stride, and his bike, recoiling from a career in the City to work as a cricket journalist before finding his way into the Test Match Special box. (See photo in next column.)



**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm £23 *Barry Manilow*** Very few performers have an effect on the modern pop culture that this man has, as a performer, as a writer and as a boundary breaker!

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm Free *Rye Street History Walk***

Museum's Rye Street walk with Chris Connell, Museum volunteer and researcher. **Booking essential.**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm Free *Tales from the Tower***

Lunchtime talk by Alan Padgett, Bishop's Stortford bell ringer. **Booking essential.**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm £7.50 (Carers free) *Fiddler on the Roof***

Our Timeless Tuesday screenings provide a welcoming and supportive environment within which to enjoy these classic handpicked films on the big screen. Key features include: more lighting, no adverts, a 15-minute interval. Moving around and noise is also acceptable. Ticket price includes a free hot drink and biscuits.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7.00pm £7.50 *Fisherman's***

*Friends: One and All.* A follow up to the 2019 hit UK film *Fisherman's Friends* about the famous sea shanty singing group from Port Isaac, Cornwall. The sequel is based on the second part of their true story about their struggles with fame, success, love, loss and navigating the bumpy road to festival glory.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 7.30pm £6.50 *Clean Sneak***

With an eclectic mix of material, Clean Sneak keep things varied and interesting. Based on the Hertfordshire-Essex border, they are well known for their appearances on the Blues and Jazz scene locally and further afield.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 7.15pm £16.50, £12.50 concessions *Royal***

*Opera House: Madama Butterfly* Live Screening Cinema *Love cannot kill: it brings new life.* On a starlit night in Nagasaki, these are the words spoken by American naval officer Pinkerton to young geisha Cio-Cio-San. But as they both learn, words and promises carelessly spoken can have indelible consequences.

For tickets please call 710200 or visit our website, where you can see details of other fantastic shows and events.



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## Once Upon a Tune: Spooky Stories

The orchestra's very popular **children's concert** returns on **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September** at 3.00pm in Saffron Hall. Sorcerers, skeletons, and ghostly ships, wicked witches and spectral swans have inspired some of the spookiest musical treats. James Mayhew tells the stories and then he and Antonio Reche-Martinez paint, capturing the spine-chilling scenes, while the orchestra plays.



Their paintings will be raffled, and all profits go to RefugEase, a charity supporting refugee families around the world. The music includes: Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, Saint-Saëns *Danse Macabre*, Sibelius *The Swan of Tuonela* and Humperdinck *Hansel and Gretel*. Tickets: adults £15 under 16s £6, available from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or tel 0845 548 7650. See you there!



Marion Dyer  
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## SHIPS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. HMS Belfast
2. The Hispaniola
3. HMS Bounty and USS Caine
4. The Solent
5. Captain Pugwash
6. It was scuttled in the River Plate estuary
7. HMS Pinafore
8. RMS Carpathia
9. HMS Endeavour and NASA space shuttle
10. The African Queen



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

### Across

9 Austria 10 Realm 11 Director-general 13 Nutlets  
16 Longbow 19 Agriculturalist 23 Disco 24 Dolphin

### Down

1 Garden party 2 Esprit 3 Oracle 4 Faro 5 Frugal 6 Rain  
7 Emir 8 Yellowstone 12 Erg 14 Lei 15 Seldom 17 Nearly  
18 Blithe 20 Ride 21 Cask 22 Undo



## STANSTED EVENING WI

It was good to welcome Keiran Olivier to our July meeting and hear about the wonderful work being done by Human Roots Community, the charity she founded. A qualified chef, Keiran grew up in a family which grew their own vegetables. She decided to apply for a grant to help schools design a garden where pupils could learn to grow things, and local schools have been very supportive. She is particularly interested in helping children with special needs. They have a large number of vegetable plots at the Elms Farm allotments, and during Covid, managed to grow and package over a ton of vegetables! She is always looking for volunteers to keep it all going; see the Directory of Local Clubs and Organisations on p 35 if you are interested.

As promised Keiran then produced a large glass terrarium for her *Horticultural Demonstration*. Into this she put a mixture of stones, dried compost, activated charcoal, purifier and soil - something should grow after that! An Arum lily was the focal point, with white lilies and ferns to each side, a trailing plant that would have small yellow flowers and she included some little red toadstools. These plants all flourish in a damp environment, but did need the addition of a slug or two and a variety of insects. Some members decided they would rather do without these, but I presume this makes a garden ecosystem. It looked wonderful but sadly was too large and too expensive to go into our raffle. The WI will be providing tea and cakes at the Windmill Fête on 29<sup>th</sup> August as usual. Our next meeting is on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September** at 7.30pm in the Day Centre; do join us for an evening out, a talk on Wellbeing, some cake and a chat. Visitors are always welcome, as are new members.



Judy Colliver  
Tel: 812470



## FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

We are open on Fridays 9.15am-11.30am in the Free Church Hall. Parents, children and all age visitors are welcome to drop in and enjoy a relaxing hot beverage and chat, while the children enjoy plenty of space to run around, play with the toys and listen to Story Time around 10.30am. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea or coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We are looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.

Sue Parker and Fran Richards  
Tel: 657116

Email: [funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

## VILLAGE VIEWS – ANSWERS

1. Alsa Wood, 2. Memorial Gardens Chapel Hill, 3. Gall End,  
4. Lime Kiln Lane, 5. Ugley Green



## SOCIAL CLUB

[www.smsc.uk.com](http://www.smsc.uk.com)

I hope everybody has been enjoying the glorious weather. The timing of the air-conditioning was perfect, and we noticed an increase in customers on the hottest days. This weather has also helped our newly planted flowers outside the building. If you have walked past, you will hopefully have noticed the changes at the front, including slate rather than gravel and newly painted window frames.

Membership continues to thrive, and we now have 580 paid-up members. If you are new to the village, we understand that you may not know two members to act as referees so please pop in, pick up a form and return it with your £25 membership fee. You will then be invited to an informal interview. Money from membership fees has enabled us to replace a number of the tables; the new ones look much nicer and are sturdier.



The Club needs to recruit more experienced staff to join the team behind the bar. If you would like further details, or would like to apply, please pop into the Club or email your CV to me. You will be working in a busy but fun environment.

We have some cracking entertainment lined up for September. There is another ever popular Karaoke night on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup>**. A Jess Glynne tribute follows on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>**, as well as an 80s party set. On **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>** there will be a Madonna tribute followed by a Whitney Houston tribute on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup>**.

As always, please check the Facebook page or website for any last-minute changes. Don't forget, we have pool, darts and snooker teams if you would like to play and enjoy some competition.



Andrew Sharpe

Tel: 812992

Email: [stanstedclub@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedclub@gmail.com)



## THE PLACE ON THE HILL

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

A reminder that we are open **every Wednesday** 10.00am-noon for adults only. Free coffee, cakes and biscuits to enjoy in good company - what more could you ask? We even have a jigsaw you can work on. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. If you have children, then please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer

Tel: 814059

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



*Stansted  
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Club*

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As our season draws to its closing month we can look back and be very proud of the Club this year. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI is having a successful season and is pushing for promotion back to the HEBL Premier League; we are currently fifth but very few points divide 2<sup>nd</sup> place and us and one win could make all the difference. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI is also having a good season with varied success, but most importantly they are enjoying their cricket in a wonderful spirit and have had very good results along the way. Bearing in mind that we are one club and that we have a pool of players that play in both teams, we should be very happy.



An even greater success than our playing sides has definitely been the Juniors whom we have been coaching this year. Over 50 youngsters of all ages have been attending training on Friday nights and everyone involved has had a wonderful time, including the many parents who come to attend and relax at the Club bar. We cannot thank all of the youngsters, parents and coaches enough. We look forward to the rest of the season and would still love to welcome any new members or supporters to the Club, so if you are interested, please do contact us.

Ben Sammons

Secretary

Tel: 07852 510330

Email: [bensammons3178@yahoo.com](mailto:bensammons3178@yahoo.com)



A barbeque was held at the Club on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July. It was glorious weather and about 45 players and family turned up to have a fun afternoon. No tennis was played as it was over 30 degrees. The organising committee: Caroline Mott, Diane Brown, Cathy Brenner and Catherine Gibby did a great job, ably helped by Garth Lane who cooked the burgers and sausages. The day was so successful that it was decided that this will become an annual event on the Club calendar.



The Club's finals day is on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September** at 10.00am. Coaching can be offered at the Club; please see [www.olliestennis.co.uk](http://www.olliestennis.co.uk) or Martyn Taplin [mj.taplin@btinternet.com](mailto:mj.taplin@btinternet.com) for further details.

Debbie Lane  
Publicity Officer  
Email: [contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)



## FOOTBALL CLUB

[www.essexseniorleague.co.uk](http://www.essexseniorleague.co.uk)

The excitement of the FA Cup and F Vase games played at Hargrave Park during the month of August has whet the appetite for our Essex Senior League season home campaign which begins in September. As in previous seasons we have already played a number of away games and now play catch up with home fixtures which should give our army of supporters something to cheer about. The new members of our squad have really settled in well and have proven that the Club will be very competitive this season with our target again to be in and around the promotion positions next April. Our Over 45s Veterans are also getting themselves ready for a new season. Under returning manager Gary Cook, the team will be looking for more consistency when

they start their campaign this month in the Essex Veterans League Division 1.

The long dry spell has played havoc with our pitch; the work of seeding and fertilising the ground in early May has all but been lost as we are now constantly filling in cracks in the ground in order to be able to play games. Many other clubs are facing the same situation, which could well lead to games being cancelled for player safety reasons. Finally good luck to our two Youth teams who also kick off their new season playing in the Essex Junior Alliance League.

**Fixtures at Hargrave Park are:**  
30<sup>th</sup> Aug v Woodford Town 7.45pm

**In September:**

10 <sup>th</sup> v	Clapton	3.00pm
13 <sup>th</sup> v	FC Clacton	7.45pm
17 <sup>th</sup> v	Athletic Newham	3.00pm
24 <sup>th</sup> v	Romford	3.00pm

All of the above are ESL Premier Division. Any changes will be announced on our social media websites.



Tom Williams  
Tel: 07921 403842



## STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

The North West Essex Bowls Association President's Day on 31<sup>st</sup> July went extremely well. Although the visiting teams out-bowled us, the overall result was a win for all, with a good day's bowling followed by a lovely meal. Thanks to everyone in the Club who helped make the day successful. Before the match two working parties were arranged, and the veranda roof was replaced on one of these days. This was damaged in the storms earlier in the year, but is now back and will provide welcome cover from the longed-for rain to come.

The North-West Essex leagues played their last few matches in August with mixed results, although the B team has had a run of good results and at the time of writing is second in the C division. We are now looking towards the end of the season; our internal competitions finals will be on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September and all are welcome to come and watch. The green will close towards the end of September, when we will need all members to help get the green ready for next year; there may well be more work this year to get the green back up to standard, so please look out for the emails and help if you can. Non-members with a little time on their hands are also very welcome! I hope that readers of The Link watched and enjoyed the Commonwealth Games bowls earlier in August, and were inspired to give the sport a try. It certainly showed that age is no barrier to medal winning! Contact me for more information.



Jeanette Mansell  
Secretary  
Tel: 07967 033924  
Email: [jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com](mailto:jeanette.mansell2016@gmail.com)



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## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

494 (Stansted Airport) Squadron ATC	Squadron Chairman: Sqn Ldr (Ret'd) Michael Dodd Tel: 07808 635652 Email: chair.494@rafac.mod.gov.uk	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 507294 Email: peterlathamz@outlook.com
Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Bowls Club	Jeanette Mansell, Hon Secretary Tel: 01371 821446	Spangles Family Hub	Tel: 03002 470122 Email: essexwest- hftcentraladminhub@nhs.net
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Stansted Badminton Club	Vince Tel: 07793 000107 Raj Tel: 07775 915418
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tek: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Cub Scouts Age 8-10½	Emma Croutcher Email: croutchere@gmail.com	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Explorer Scouts	Paul Thorneycroft Tel: 01371 876784	Stansted Family Café	Ros Page Tel: 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Jocelin Warren Tel: 07482 535020 Office Tel: 656085	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: eatmorestillton@gmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Stansted Tennis Club	Debbie Lane Tel: 07870 971983 Email: debbieglane@gmail.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Investigators Age 7-11	Ros Page Tel 810813 Email: stanstedfamily@gmail.com	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: help@letstalkstansted.org	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stansted.net
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: bertiestar@gmail.com
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	WI (Stansted)	Anne Watson Tel: 898693
music@stansted (Classical concerts)	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282 Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Ugley)	Dorothy Wallace Tel: 850215
Neighbourhood Watch	Valerie Trundle Tel: 813433	Youth Centre	Linda Barnes Tel: 07947 548051
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638	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.	
Uttlesford Support Group	Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242/ 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Rachel Foster Tel: 07818 417971		
Rainbows (Fri)	Sue Pollard Tel: 813734		

### 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](mailto: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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