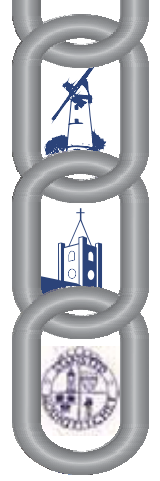


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Front cover

Fun Place on the Hill

by Elizabeth Oakley

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Please email editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on **9th June**. Submissions should be in Word or typed into an email, maximum 300 words, and may be subject to editing. Please send photographs (**preferably landscape**) as separate jpg.

DISCLAIMER Opinions in The Link reflect those of the authors and contributors. Publication (on paper or electronically) of articles, advertisements or product/services information does not constitute endorsement by The Link nor is any culpability accepted for work undertaken by advertisers.

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EDITORIAL



I would like to thank Sue Parker and Fran Richards for allowing me to join them during one of their recent *Fun Place on the Hill* Friday sessions, in order for me to take a picture for the front cover. Also thanks to the parents for giving permission for their children to be photographed. One of the parents warned me that the children would be highly unlikely to be still enough for a photo to be taken: *Cats in a Sack* is how she described it! As it turned out they were quiet for a few seconds listening to Sing-Along so I could get a picture. Sue and Fran have an amazing set up for entertaining toddlers; for those of you who have little ones, it is a great place to go. I am full of admiration for the calm and creative way the sessions are held. Also special thanks to Paul Burt for his enhancement of the picture.

The former Day Centre and community hub, now known as Touchpoint, has been fully refurbished and is well worth a visit. See p22 for details, and p4 for a picture of the new sign over the entrance. It is all very warm and welcoming. For another amazing photo, please see p15, accompanying the Free Church article. I admit to being doubtful if we would be able to see the Aurora Borealis in Stansted, with all its many street lights, but Dale Crowson was out there with his camera and took that beautiful photograph. Thanks so much to you, Dale.



Gardeners of the Future

On a damp April afternoon Human Roots hosted an activity event for the 1st Henham and Elsenham Beavers. The 20 Beavers took part in the following activities:

Making self-watering plant pots

Sowing beans with a sprinkling of magic!

Bug hunting around the Human Roots allotment



So watch this space on their growing success. Many thanks to Daphne Lunnon and Steve Howard who kindly donated bean seeds. The event was huge fun for the Beavers, who were certainly *busy and bright*. Human Roots volunteers really enjoyed hosting the event and assisting the Beavers with all the activities. If you belong to an organisation which would benefit from such an event, or are just interested in joining Human Roots as a volunteer, please email Cathy at cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

After 10 months in the planning, we are excited that the garden refurbishment is now complete. It looks very different and is a lot safer for wheelchair users and anybody with mobility issues. The garden is now much more functional and gives us a great space for outdoor entertainment, weather permitting. We will have a large screen outside for Euro 2024 so watch this space for further details. In more good news, local darts prodigy Mason Teese, whom we help to sponsor, has qualified for the World Darts Federation World Masters event in October. We wish him luck, and if you or your company are interested in sponsoring Mason please get in touch.

We have another packed entertainment schedule lined up for June. **Saturday 1st** sees a fantastic *Rod Stewart* tribute and tickets for non-members are selling fast. On **Saturday 8th** there is another legend tribute with *The Bowie Experience* making their Club debut. The *ELO experience* make a welcome return on **Friday 14th** and they are followed by *Firebrand*, a fabulous covers band who are appearing on **Saturday 15th**. The ever-popular karaoke returns on **Friday 21st**, hosted by Martin from *Cloud 9*. We have the *True Vybez Reggae Band* back with on **Saturday 22nd** with an amazing set of Reggae classics. We round off the month with three great acts. On **Friday 28th** we have an *Elvis* tribute, followed by a *Barry Manilow* tribute on **Saturday 29th**. A *Barry Gibb* solo act rounds off the month on **Sunday 30th**. As always, events are free for members and £10 for non-members. Please check the Facebook page for any changes to our entertainment schedule www.facebook.com/stanstedclub.



Andrew Sharpe
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com



Please do remember to buy your tickets for this year's Music in the Park on **Saturday 6th July** 1.30pm-8.00pm on the school field. Come along to see *The Jjarrs, Indigo Star, JDS Acoustic Band, Industrial Language, The Atoms, No Difference* and our very own DJ Fran. As well as great music, there will be a barbecue, beer tent, bouncy castles, ice creams, sweets, novelty stall and face painting. Entry is by ticket only: adults £15 advance, £18 on the day, subject to availability. Children aged 3-16 are free with a maximum of two per paying adult but will still need a ticket. Advance tickets are available from the school office, The Dog and Duck and Intercounty on Cambridge Road.



So get out your festival gear and make your way down to this fun-filled event. Whether you want to get up and dance or relax in a chair with a cold drink, we look forward to seeing you and we thank you for supporting our school. All profits from this event go into the Parent Teacher Friends Association (PTFA) funds at our school. In the past this has not only paid for new playground equipment but is becoming necessary to support the curriculum and pay for essential items for everyday use. We are always on the lookout for more sponsors; you can sponsor everything from hot dog rolls to bouncy castles, or volunteer as a safety steward for the day.

The Organising Committee
Bentfield School PTFA
Tel: 813626
Email: mitpstansted@gmail.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 4th June** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street where we will be discussing last month's book choice *Orphans of the Storm* by Celia Imrie. This book is based on the heartbreaking true story of a mother's quest to find her children against all odds, set against the epic backdrop of the sinking of the legendary Titanic. As one of our members said, the joy of a book club is that you are introduced to books you may not otherwise think to read. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Summer is on the way at last, but we are still the go-to place if you are in need of company or just want to get out of the house. Join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits in friendly company on **Wednesdays 10.00am-noon**. We also 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. There is limited parking behind the church. Adults of all ages are welcome. If you have children, 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

STANSTED FIRE STATION

www.essex-fire.gov.uk/location/station-83-stansted



Welcome to our article on what it is like to be an on-call fire-fighter in this beautiful corner of Essex. The month of April has brought many challenges for the team here at Stansted; as well as attending incidents, the crew has been training hard and continues to support the development of two trainee fire-fighters who have recently joined the team. A notable date in the month was Monday 15th April when our very own FF Johnson was awarded a *Chief Fire Officer's Commendation* for her bravery in dealing with a medical incident she came across on Cambridge Road. The whole station is incredibly proud of FF Johnson's actions and it was great to see she was recognised by the wider service, and proving that fire-fighting skills can be used even when you are off duty.



Whilst I write, the team is getting ready to observe a minute's silence for National Fire-fighter Memorial Day. Every 4th May we pay tribute to active and retired firefighters in the UK and all around the world, for their extraordinary courage, selflessness and dedication. We also remember the ultimate sacrifice so many men and women firefighters make in the line of duty. If anyone is interested in joining the team please feel free to pop down and see us on a Thursday drill night at 7.00pm in the station on Chapel Hill. Stay safe and kind regards to all.

Steven Perry
Tel: 01376 575830
Email: stansted.oc@essex-fire.gov.uk



Encounters of the Third Kind

Boldly venturing on a European holiday alone, Stansted member Susan Sedgebeer was pleased to happen upon a fellow u3a member from Bishop Auckland. The happy coincidence, miles from the UK, led to an interesting arrangement. Fast forward to Sunday 7th April when eight Stansted members drove to Cambridge to meet up with a large party from Bishop Auckland u3a! They joined together for a guided tour of the city given by the knowledgeable Tony Rodgers. All Thirdaygers had a super time and recommend being a tourist in your own city!



The Garden Group recently learned about *The History of the Cottage Garden* with the help of Andrew Sankey, gardener, author and lecturer. Forget any chocolate box notions with hollyhocks at the gate. The original Cottage Gardens were a key source of food for their inhabitants (as well as the site of their al fresco toilets). Any hollyhocks were self-seeded, not deliberately planted.

The itchy feet of the Bus Pass Group took them to the Botanical Gardens in Cambridge for their recent outing. The beautiful array of lilacs, orange blossom and magnolias did not disappoint the travellers. Inside the hot-houses, where they took refuge from the cold winds, they found the exotic Jade Vine. This plant is usually pollinated by bats; with none available, the Botanical Gardeners have had to do this by hand to ensure a crop of juicy fruits later in the year. Sadly, the group arrived in Cambridge by means of the train, having taken the decision that the buses were less than reliable. Let us hope this does not become a permanent situation. Finally, do please remember that new members are always very welcome. Please check the website or phone 07874 385541 to find out more information about the variety of activities on offer.

Julia Cook
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

At our AGM on 2nd May, our Chairman reported a good year again. For the last few meetings, we had a break from our usual venue, with the Meeting House accommodating us whilst the Day Centre was being refurbished. We have acquired a sound system using money raised from a raffle. David reported the Stansted Embroidery is now safely housed in the Surgery and thanked Leila for her efforts. The website is now up and running and future programme information can be found there. The meeting agreed with a proposal to increase subscriptions to £15 per annum along with £3 for evening visitors.

Tony Wellings put on a show using two projectors and two screens, helped by Ken McDonald. A series of similar images from around the village taken recently and from slides from around 40 years old were shown simultaneously. The fountain at the top of Chapel Hill looks quite bleak now the huge willow has gone. Some houses have sadly gone but others have been restored, such as the one in front of the old Forge, which looked very rundown in the old slide. It was very noticeable how many more cars there are now; however there were a lot then too. It was evident there is much more growth of verges and trees today. Our thanks to them for an enjoyable evening.

We now have our usual break until **Thursday 5th September** when Ian Mercer will talk to us about *The Ground beneath our Feet*. For our summer outing we are going to Sutton Hoo.

Roger Barrett
Tel: 814216
Email: rmbarratt54@gmail.com

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

The Day Centre was a very important hub for our village for a long time. Meetings of all sorts, fundraising events, meals, parties and quizzes are a few of the events held there. However, the facilities were getting quite worn out and a makeover was sorely needed; see p22 in the Stansted Network pages for details of what went on.



The building is now known as **Touchpoint**, no longer Day Centre. This will be difficult to get used to after all these years, which is why I am giving you this brief heads up.

Ed

accuro DAY RAVE
supporting people with a disability

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Council Depot, Little Canfield
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DJ Digital Pocahontas
Family Friendly event with no Alcohol
Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult
Tickets Adults £10, Age 10 and under £5
from www.accuro.org.uk/events

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 4th June
Dog and Duck, Lower Street
Orphans of the Storm by Celia Imrie
Heartbreaking true story of a
mother's quest to find her children
against all odds, set against the epic
backdrop of the sinking of the
legendary Titanic
All Welcome Tel 813056



**Green Waste
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Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm
9th & 23rd June
7th & 21st July

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

1	Sat	Stansted Sings Together	St John's Hall 6 pm
2	Sun	Windmill Open Accuro Day Rave	1.30 - 5.30 pm Council Depot, Lt Canfield 2 pm
4	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Sun	Link copy due in today	before noon
9/23	Sun	Green Waste Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
11	Tue	The Arts Society B S RSPB	South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am Bishop's Park, B S 7.30 pm
13	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
15	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am
19	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
20	Thu	U3A Meeting and AGM	St John's Hall 2 pm
23	Sun	Open Day Red Cross Open Garden	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm Gaston Hse, Lt Hallingbury 2 - 5 pm
25	Tue	The Lord Chamberlain's Men Lib Dem Light Supper Club	Hatfield Forest 7 pm Touchpoint 7 pm
29	Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market S W Symphony and S W Choral	Elsenham Village Hall 12.30 pm Saffron Hall 7.30 pm

**THE ARTS SOCIETY
BISHOP'S STORTFORD**

10.40 am Tue 11th June
South Mill Arts
The Fate of Art in the Nazi Era
including rarely seen works of art
by Colin Pink
Guests welcome Entry £7
Coffee served from 10 am
Tel 656065 for more information



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 11th June
Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA
Red Kites, Swifts and Turtle Doves
by Dr Andre Farrar
who has worked for RSPB for over 40 years
Visitors welcome, entry £5
Tel: Peter 07876 295456
www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



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LIGHT SUPPER CLUB
with Alison Philips
former editor of the Daily Mirror
7 pm Tue 25th June
Touchpoint Community Hub
All welcome
Tickets £12 incl light refreshments tel
Catherine 813579 or Geoffrey 815925



JOINT SUMMER CONCERT

7.30 pm Sat 29th June
Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden
Programme includes
Parry *Blest Pair of Sirens*
Parry *I was Glad*
Poulenc *Stabat Mater*
Tel 0845 548 7650 www.saffronhall.com



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon
Sat 15th June
Ugley Village Hall
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Eggs ~ Fish ~ Soup ~ Hummus
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam
Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare
Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts
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HATFIELD FOREST

7 pm Tue 25th June
near the Lake
The Lord Chamberlain's Men
present
Shakespeare's Hamlet
All male cast with Elizabethan
Costumes, Music and Dance
Tickets Adults £19.51 Under 16s £10.84
from www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest



British Red Cross OPEN GARDEN

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Tudor Event
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Activities for all the family incl archery
Tudor music using period instruments
All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979

MAGNA CARTA EMBROIDERY

The Magna Carta Embroidery is now in the Surgery and displayed at the top of the stairs between the lifts and the entrance to the surgery.



There are information sheets to accompany it giving a numbered system so that the details can be identified. The facsimiles are now housed in the library. It has been a long wait for it to be put on show, as it was completed nine years ago.

Leila Riddell



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our April meeting was the popular Peter Gibson, a trustee of Saffron Walden almshouses. He gave a fascinating talk on the history of the *King Edward VI* and *Reverend Joseph Prime* almshouses. These were established in 1400 when the Guild of Our Lady of Pity was created in Saffron Walden by charter from Henry VI, following a bequest of £40 from John and Eleanor Butler. The purpose of the guild was to provide almshouses for the *succor and sustenance of thirteen poor men such as be lame, crooked, blind, bed ridden and most in need*. A number of local benefactors donated land and money to the guild. In 1694 new almshouses were built between today's Park Lane and the Slade but by 1782 some had become so dilapidated that they were demolished and replaced. A new almshouse was completed by 1834 providing homes for 30 elderly people. In the 1950s bungalows were built in Prime's Close named after Reverend Joseph Prime, these are now being re-developed and made fit for 21st century living. Vacancies are advertised in the local press and on the almshouses website, www.swalmshouses.org.

Lynn Croot will be the speaker at our next meeting, to be held on **Wednesday 19th June** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall when she will be taking us on a journey to Tobago. Why not come along and join us for the afternoon? No passport required!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE LINK

We are so delighted with the number and variety of pictures sent by you lovely people who write articles for the magazine; but we are finding that, all too often, we are having to send the pictures back to you. The ideal specifications for us are:

- Photos should be **landscape** if they are accompanying articles
- They should also be **fairly high resolution**, otherwise they look fuzzy and we cannot use them. At least 250KB is our recommendation
- **Panoramic** photos do not work within the confines of our narrow margins
- We would be hugely grateful if you could send photos, preferably jpg, separate from the article to which they belong, not embedded within the article.

In addition, we often find ourselves short of photos of village events which are suitable for the front cover. If you find yourself at one of these events, such as the Windmill Fête, do feel free to take pictures and send them to us. However, in the case of front covers, the photos must be **portrait, with a high resolution, over 1MB**. Many thanks to all of you.

Ed

You may recall that I wrote this article last December. I am repeating it because we are still having to send many of your pictures back to you because they cannot be used, mainly because they are too small. A photo which is only 16KB, for example, is totally unusable as it comes out a tiny fuzzy mess when added to your articles. I do hope that the guidelines above will help you. Thanks so much.

STANSTED EVENING WI



Our April meeting was held at the Bowls Club where we welcomed Lindsey Barrell who spoke to us about British Sign Language (BSL). She is a WI president and is on the Institute's hub for BSL. Signing has really come into public awareness since Rose Ayling-Ellis won *Strictly Come Dancing*. Lindsey explained how we all use signing without realising it: thumbs up for good and a wave for hello. The first record of sign language use was 1450 and there are 300 different types. We were surprised to learn that a deaf person has to pay to learn it which seems incredible. Many signs date back to naval origins; for example, the one for biscuit is tapping the elbow and this relates to sailors tapping to rid the biscuits of weevils in them! She gave a very interesting, knowledgeable and witty talk which was greatly enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 13th June** at 7.30pm at Touchpoint when our speaker will be Paul Gillions from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The competition is a nautical item. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



On **Thursday 6th June** we have our midweek birding walk starting from All Saint's Church, Wicken Bonhunt CB11 3YL at 10.00am. The walk will go along mostly ancient trackways on high ground with extensive views of the beautiful countryside and there should be an abundance of wild flowers and skylarks.

For our monthly meeting on **Tuesday 11th June** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA we welcome Dr Andre Farrar; he has worked for the RSPB for over 40 years in various capacities and his talk will feature red kites, swifts and turtle doves.

These species have been chosen as they are iconic British birds which can be seen locally but have very diverse recent histories. One astounding success, one extremely endangered and the other in critical danger. This promises to be a great evening with a very knowledgeable speaker.



RSPB Fowlmere

June sees the summer solstice on **Thursday 20th** and we plan to celebrate by meeting at RSPB Fowlmere Nature Reserve, Mill Rd, Royston SG8 6EZ at 6.00pm. This is a well-loved wildlife oasis set within farmland and its former watercress beds are now reedbed, fen, chalk grassland and scrub, which are home to many species.

Our evening starts with a picnic before taking a leisurely stroll through the reserve. Last year we were blessed with fabulous weather, lots of bird species and plentiful bird-song. A magical way to celebrate the solstice in a beautiful reserve. Full details and more can be found on our website.

Peter Allen
Tel: 07876 295456
Email: peter2349@sky.com



We held our annual *Renewal of Promise Service* in St Mary's Church on the Sunday nearest St George's Day. The flag of St George led the parade into church followed by the Union flag and the four section flags with the respective Scouts behind.



Mark Gerber, Group Scout Leader, led the service and asked each section leader to lead the renewal for their own sections. A Scout from each section spoke about their past year in Scouting, what they had achieved and what they liked doing the most. Mark also spoke about the group's history including the period of time they used the Windmill as their headquarters. The church was buzzing with over 200 people attending and the service was enjoyed by all. Many stayed afterwards for tea and biscuits and a few older Scouts could be heard reminiscing about their own scouting time. Thank you, Lynda for your help and Keith, for providing the music. See you all next year.

Mike Byrne
Scout Leader
Tel: 812780
Email: stanstedscoutgroup@gmail.com


ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the April draw:

£100	No 132	Katy Dockerill
£ 50	No 172	Delia Joyce
£ 25	No 45	William Kent

The draw for June will be held on **30th June** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number 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 this year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819 062
Email: jean733@btinternet.com



Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy


Hazel Williams is one of the few osteopathic practitioners who specialises in both structural and cranial osteopathy to treat a wide range of patients from babies to the elderly, from the immobile to athletes. Her treatment can help with: back, neck, joint, arthritic, muscle and sciatic pain, trapped nerves, sports injuries, headaches and migraine.

She also incorporates acupuncture to aid pain relief and provides specially formulated pilates classes to help improve and maintain fitness.

Classes held at: *The Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill.*
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Please call to book an appointment or a class
01279 813371 or **07973 409675**
www.hazel-williams.co.uk

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IN THE GARDEN



UTTLESFORD CITIZENS ADVICE

www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

June heralds gardens bursting with colour. Many gardeners will be feeling exhausted after the wet, cold spring, trying to decide when to sow. April is usually a good month for this but seedlings have struggled to germinate this year and it has been difficult trying to decide when to plant out into a garden environment. Hopefully this month we will have some settled weather.

Runner and French beans should be climbing by now but it is not too late to sow. Sometimes a second sowing in July reaps rewards of harvesting in the Autumn when earlier plantings would have ceased to bear fruit.



Deadheading is important as it keeps everything looking tidy and encourages fresh growth and flowers. This is also the time of year, immediately following the Chelsea Flower Show, for the oft-mentioned *Chelsea Chop* which can apply to many of the plants in the garden around June.

If you are lucky enough not to have succumbed either to blight or the ravages of the box moth caterpillar, now is the time to give box hedging a good trim.

If you have perennials such as phlox, achillea, campanulas, echinaceas, rudbeckias, penstemons and heleniums then prune back half the stems to spread the plant's flowering period over a longer season.

Remember to visit open gardens near you. Gardens should be at their best now and for the next three months. Last year we mentioned visiting open gardens under the National Gardens Scheme, see www.ngs.org.uk for details. For a few pounds in aid of charity, you get a glimpse over the garden wall. The village of Berden is having an open gardens event on **Sunday 23rd June** from 2.00pm-6.00pm raising funds for St. Nicholas Church, Berden.

u3a Garden Group
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



Several changes came into force in April, so it is worth checking what support is available. If you need help contact us; our advice is always free and confidential.

Welfare Benefits You are now eligible for extra benefits. You can check using the online benefit calculator at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5078/Online-Benefit-Calculators

Managed Migration Tax credits will soon be replaced by Universal Credit so look out for your Universal Credit Migration Notice from DWP and do not ignore it! You must claim by the given deadline, but not before you receive your letter or you could be worse off.

Funded Childcare If you qualify, you will get 15 hours of funded childcare the term after your child turns two, and from September when your child is nine months or over. See www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/education/claiming-the-new-15-hours-of-free-childcare-for-2-year-olds.

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you are over state pension age and on a low income; this is separate from your state pension. You can claim online, over the phone or by post and will qualify for a higher amount if you are severely disabled or a carer. Go to www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator.

The National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage hourly rates have increased. Salaried workers are also affected, so workers doing 35 hours per week must be paid at least £20,821 a year. New rules are also in force for flexible working. See www.gov.uk for details.

If you have a **disability, long-term health condition or care needs** there are benefits to help with the extra costs. Our specialist team can help with applications for PIP, Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance (for children under 16).

Low-income households may also be eligible for reductions in council tax, water rates and broadband tariffs as well as help with NHS costs, healthy start vouchers and free school meals. See www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/cost-of-living/get-help-with-the-cost-of-living.

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

SAFFRON WALDEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SAFFRON WALDEN CHORAL SOCIETY

Two well-known local music groups are joining forces for their summer concerts in Saffron Hall this year. On **Saturday 29th June** at 7.30pm, Saffron Walden Symphony Orchestra and Saffron Walden Choral Society will be performing *Foulds April England*, *Saint-Saens Le Rouet d'Omphale*, *Parry Blest Pair of Sirens*, *Parry I was Glad* and *Poulenc Stabat Mater*. Tickets: adults £16, £21 and £26, Under 25s £8.50, £11, and £13.50 available from www.saffronhall.com or tel 0845 548 7650.



Marion Dyer and Sarah Ludlow-Elston



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

With the summer here the children have been embracing the outdoors. It has been lovely to see them enjoying all that outdoor play and learning has to offer including digging in the mud pit, rolling down the hill on the gym mats, playing with pushchairs, dancing to their favourite tunes and playing volleyball.



We have renamed our midweek lunchtime as #Wellbeing Wednesday whereby all the children have a picnic lunch which they enjoy outside on picnic blankets, beanbags and cushions. It has been a big hit with the children, especially the ice lollies! It can only get better now that it is getting warmer.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Even with the changeable weather, our babies just keep on coming in all sorts of shapes and sizes; but what they all have in common is that they are really cute! There is so much to do: hold the ducklings and chicks, bottle feed the orphans, meet the farm animals, cuddle the babies, arts and crafts, enjoy our play area, ride the train (£2 per person), Zip and Friends Story Trail, Woodland Trail and Ollie's Food Hut. Entry is only £6 and under ones are free. Please note there are no credit card facilities, and booking is not necessary. Please make sure you bring your wellies!

We are a working farm and run mainly by volunteers as a not-for-profit organisation. The money we raise by you visiting us makes sure our animals stay well fed and watered. So, in essence, this is a win-win situation, you have a lovely time seeing our animals and as a direct result, we can afford to ensure they are all well looked after. So thank you! If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Want a different kind of holiday? Then come and camp on the farm and enjoy the great outdoors and our animals at the same time. Either book direct or on our website sooner rather than later! As ever, thanks so much for your continued support. We are open 9.00am-4.00pm weekdays, 10.00am-4.00pm weekends and Bank Holidays, and you can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place is open every **Friday, including school holidays**, from 9.15am-11.30am in the comfortable Free Church Hall. All ages are welcome, although it is particularly suitable for children. Parents, carers and all age visitors are welcome to drop in and enjoy a relaxing hot drink and chat, while the children enjoy plenty of space to run around, play with the toys and join in with a Sing-Along around 10.30am. With a wide variety of toys, the children soon select their favourites for the morning, including push-a-longs, puzzles, shape sorters, dolls, farm vehicles and animals. 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. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



www.rainbowstansted.co.uk

Our PE sessions have started again, led by Charlotte; the children are practising jumping, skipping, and hopping plus pretending to be cars and obeying traffic lights! The summer term is all about the Adventurers' transition to primary school. We have welcomed three new children to the



Explorers Group, and they have settled in very well. Both groups enjoyed a visit from Zoolab; Okan the Ranger brought a corn snake, a tarantula, a large snail and a frog who escaped and started to jump around the classroom! Each child was given the opportunity to touch or to look at the animals through their cages. Everyone, including the staff, really enjoyed the visit and there was much talk at snack time about which animals they had liked.

The Committee have started planning for our Graduation Ceremony and sponsored Sports Day on **Friday 12th July** and we look forward to welcoming all our families. We are really hoping that the re-roofing of our building will be completed soon and the scaffolding removed so we can start enjoying our outdoor area again. We take children from two years to rising five. If you are interested in applying, please visit our website for details. You need to put your child's name down now, however young, to ensure a place.

Gill Pursglove
Administrator
Tel: 814242
Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net

STANSTED PEOPLE

ANN CONROY

Ann was born and raised in Enfield, alongside two sisters and identical twin brothers. She and her husband Gerry both worked for Edison and Swan, also known as AEI, in a factory at Ponders End, where they first met. He was making special bulbs, such as those for lighthouses. Some of the staff were transferred to Stansted; Edison and Swan had a factory located where the Mountfitchet Care Home is now. Ann and Gerry married in Ponders End; while Gerry was in a taxi *en route* from Henham to Ponders End to get married, he was looking at the local newspaper, searching for work for Ann! Two days after the wedding, she was at the Labour Exchange in Bishop's Stortford, trying to find a job. That really was an unusual kind of honeymoon! She found a job at the Collector of Taxes office, for a year, then she worked at the Stansted Edison and Swan factory, doing office work. The factory closed in 1967 and she started work in Spellbrook at Hayters' Lawnmowers.



In 1969 Ann and Gerry had a son Ian, followed a few years later by Lorna. They lived at Dunmow Road in Bishop's Stortford, in a small two-bedroomed house. Lorries rather blighted their existence as they were prone to crashing into the outside wall and were very noisy. In spite of this, Ann was not keen to move as she loved the little house. She went shopping one day, and came back to find the house had been sold! The family moved into a very nice house in Rainsford Road, Stansted. Ann's famous child-minding got started thanks to a very pleasant neighbour who had a small son; she asked Ann if she could take care of him while she worked. Ann did what was needed to become an official child minder, and took on several more little ones to care for at home. She and three friends, mother helpers at Sideways Nursery, went to Saffron Walden to take a course in how to interact and entertain small children, and decided to form Rainbow Playgroup, now Rainbow Preschool. They rented the Youth Centre and the group was registered to care for up to 26 children. One rather odd rule that they had to contend with was that unqualified teachers could only be responsible for four children each, whereas a qualified teacher could have eight, even if the person were qualified to teach something totally irrelevant like Astrophysics! The Youth Centre group lasted for 25 years; after that, they moved to the Quaker Meeting House.

Ann and her group were asked if they would like to use a room at St Mary's School, where they stayed for five years, with Ann as a leader. She took on volunteer status when the group moved to the Peter Kirk building. Ann still does two sessions there every week. She belongs to the Herts and Soul Choir, the St Mary's singers and St John's Church Choir; a previous leader of the latter choir had links in Cambridge, so annually the choir would join other church choirs to sing at Kings College, Cambridge. Ann also had the opportunity to sing in many different places including St Paul's Cathedral. She has an allotment close to St Mary's Church, and also enjoys attending the Bowls Club, where her nickname is *Killer Conroy!* She also belongs to the *Craft Ladies Group*, who make items to sell at the monthly Ugley Farmers' Market and at the Windmill Fête, in order to raise money for St John's Church. In the past Ann ran a summer playscheme for the Parish Council and she was a Sunday school teacher. Gerry and Ann have two children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren, all of whom live locally. So Ann is a very busy lady indeed, with all her hobbies, taking care of her family, working two sessions a week at Rainbow Pre School - so much for a quiet retirement!

Ed



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

Join us for our biggest Summer Fayre yet on **Saturday 13th July** noon-4.00pm, organized by our incredible Parent Teacher Friends Association. We will have bouncy castles, food stalls, gift stalls and games; get ready for an unforgettable day filled with fun and laughter! The *Spirit of the Wild*: get up close and personal with exotic animals and birds. Experience the wonders of nature like never before. *Incredible Acts*: enjoy thrilling performances by local dance academies, TOTEM's Moni Tivony and Lydia Lucy, known for their appearances on *The Voice UK* and Lydia's opening act at the Euros with the *Black Eyed Peas*. Special guest DJ Archie, who has rocked major festivals including Glastonbury, will keep the party going with his electrifying beats.

Home Farm Trust Garden Centre will bring their beautiful plants and gardening expertise to enhance the Summer Fayre experience. Indulge in delicious treats in our tea and cake tent. Get a chance to meet our local heroes from the *Fire and Ambulance Service*. Learn about their important work and explore their vehicles up close. We will be raising money for new play equipment for the school and IT resources. Every penny counts and your contribution will directly support the children's development and education. Mark your calendars; this is an event not to be missed. Entrance is free for children, and adults can join in on the fun for just £1. Donations welcome. Spread the word, bring your friends and family, and let us make this Summer Fayre the highlight of the year. Follow our [instagram@stmarysstansted_ptfa](https://www.instagram.com/stmarysstansted_ptfa) for updates.

Charlene Warren
Email: charlenewarren01@hotmail.com

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www.manudencommunitycentre.co.uk

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Owlets Playgroup

For more information please contact
 Chris **01279 817111** info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk



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




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Please contact the church office on 01279 815243
Email: st.johns.church@btinternet.com

Ugley Village Hall
www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

With two halls, ample parking, facilities for the disabled and
 competitive rates, Ugley Village Hall on the B1383
 (Cambridge Road), is available for hire throughout the
 year for children's parties, adult parties (over 25s),
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For bookings or further information please contact Susan Bone
Tel: 01279 814052 Email: ugleyvillagehall@gmail.com



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www.rainbowstansted.co.uk

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NATURAL BEEKEEPING

In April you get the first honeybee swarms but they really kick into gear in May and June, which I think are the most exciting months for swarms, as shown below. So what has happened in the hive over the last two months? The bees would have overwintered on the honey from last year; then in April, with the first flowers, the queen would have moved down to start laying eggs in order to build up the colony again, and fill the hive with bees. Beekeepers would have been feeding sugar and pollen to stimulate this. Feral bees would now have died because they would have expected, in vain, to be fed. However the wild colonies would have a good supply of honey and would be in good condition.



This year I have not seen as many bumble bees as I would normally have expected for the time of the year. I suspect it was the rain washing the nectar and pollen away thus reducing their food, as well as just being very wet. Most spring flowers hang down so they can still retain their pollen and nectar, such as blue bells and crocus; both are very important food sources for all the early season bugs. I have been amazed by the magnificent displays from my apple, pear and magnolias this year. With no frost they have been able to retain all their flowers and have been spectacular! With all the warm weather and the foliage on the trees now, I hope for a marvellous bug-filled summer with loads of moths and butterflies, and all the pesky ones too! Next time I will talk about how the many bugs that are considered pests are actually very useful, and how we can work around them being pesky if we learn to understand them.

Kevin Hancock
Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

The Club is trying out some more new activities this term with a Zumba session followed by a meal out at Easton Lodge. We are also looking forward to a visit by the Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society. A reminder to please get in touch if you have a connection to the club and would like to attend our planned 50th birthday party in August.

Ellen Brooks
Tel: 07800 896516



www.southmillarts.co.uk.

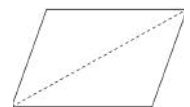
This June, start your summer with some fabulous shows at South Mill Arts. Starting on **Saturday 8th June**, enjoy the only UK touring show dedicated to the maestro and legend, *Barry White*. Direct from the USA, vocalist William Hicks will also be joined on stage by his *Soul Unlimited Orchestra* and supported by the stunning *What Friends Are For* tribute show for Dionne Warwick and Gladys Knight. Laugh the night away as Gail Porter brings her new stand-up comedy show to South Mill Arts on **Friday 14th June**. After completing 31 sold-out shows at The Edinburgh Fringe, she is heading to Bishop's Stortford for her hilarious show: *Gail Porter: Hung, Drawn and Portered*. *Think Floyd* join us on **Saturday 15th June**. They faithfully recreate Pink Floyd's timeless music with sound and lighting for an impressive laser show. Pink Floyd's Nick Mason generously called them *better than we are!* Be sure not to miss our incredible Live Lounge events as *Retune* return on **Tuesday 18th June**. This Bishop's Stortford-based organisation inspires young people to improve their mental health through music. Brace yourself for the award-winning show *Girls Night Out* with *Flat and the Curves* on **Friday 21st June**. Full of a fierce blend of outrageous vocals and rip-roaring humour, feel empowered at this riotous show by fabulous women for fabulous women!

Or sit back and enjoy the comfort of cinema by coming to see some much-anticipated films such as *Bob Marley: One Love* on **Tuesday 4th June** and *Wicked Little Letters* on **Thursday 6th June**. There is something for everyone. For more information about everything that is happening at South Mill Arts this season, head to the website.

Seren Stephen
Tel: 710200
Email: enquiries@southmillarts.co.uk

ODE TO A PARALLELOGRAM

Oh, parallelogram,
I love you so,
Oh, parallelogram,
Don't you know,
The circle is not better,
Its area's confusing,
That transcendental constant pi leaves me feeling woozy,
But oh, my parallelogram,
Your boundaries are pure,
The inside sits right here,
And then it lasts no more.
Yet your beauty is endless,
You are so well defined,
Two slanting sides and two straight ones are always in my mind,
Some say you're square plus triangle,
That's true, I will confess,
For two great shapes merged as one,
Make the best!



Funky Pigeon
Aged 10
Email: cmgpelly@gmail.com (Mother)

There were no entries for April in St John's Registers.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Many of you probably know that I had a nasty ear infection three years ago, which left me somewhere between moderately and severely deaf in my right ear. I bought my first hearing aid from a company whose representative comes round to your house. A nice lady called Martina visited me. She had a sympathetic manner and wore a Dolce and Gabbana suit. I was putty in her hands. Of the three types of hearing aid on offer, I ended up buying the super-duper one, which by extraordinarily good luck was on special offer. Nine months later, the hearing aid stopped working. I phoned Martina, and she told me the firm she worked for had gone bust, and there was nothing she could do for me. I could not help thinking that I had been taken in by a racket.

So I started all over again, this time with a well-known high street optician. The audiologist there was fantastic, with a real pastoral manner. I now have a genuinely super-duper hearing aid, with three microphones. The most wonderful part of my fitting was when I put my new hearing aid on for the first time, the audiologist said something, and I realised I could hear him with both ears. It was a miraculous moment of restoration and healing; if I were an audiologist, this would be the moment I got out of bed for in the morning. I came home and listened to a very specific piece of music: the third movement of Beethoven's 15th string quartet, which has the title *Holy song of thanksgiving of a convalescent to the Deity*. There is no more profound expression of healing, relief and gratitude in the whole of music; listening to it with two ears, I think I knew how Beethoven must have felt.



Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather
St John's Church



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ
www.sttheresastansted.org

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, Wednesday,
Friday
10.00am-12 noon
Email: stansted.church.office@gmail.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
Mobile: 07880 602717
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

Parish Priest Fr Clement Orango
Tel: 814 349
Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

Parish Administrator Tel: 816889
Email: stansted@brcdt.org

Masses
Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm Confessions 6.00pm Mass
Sunday 8.30am Mass
10.00am Mass
Wednesday 12.30pm

Baptisms By appointment

Our Mass times can be subject to change so please refer to our website and newsletter for updated information, including weekday Masses. Confessions are at 5.15pm every Saturday before the Vigil Mass and by appointment.





STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Gill Hulme

Secretary Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579
Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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

Preachers for June

2nd 10.30am Arthur Revels

9th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion

16th 10.30am Rev'd Blair Kirkby

23rd 10.30am Rev'd Janet Tollington

30th 10.30am Ruzive Mhiribidi



Many thanks to Dale Crowson for the wonderful photograph above of our church showing the Aurora Borealis.



QUAKERS

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

Contact Jonathan Morrell
Tel: 07775 860379
Email: woldsouth3@gmail.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 This is a guided Quaker meditation. There is more information on the noticeboard outside the Meeting House or do contact Sue on 07759 532115. We generally meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month.



MANUDEN OPEN GARDENS

www.manuden.org.uk/Manuden-Open-Gardens.asp

Our event this year is on **Sunday 16th June** 2.00pm-6.00pm in our Community Centre, David Collins Drive, Manuden CM23 1EH and will include a Classic and Sports Car Show with about 20 specialist cars. Show cars can arrive from 10.00am on the day and can exit early if required. About 15 gardens, large and small, cottage style and more formal, will be open in and around the village, including new gardens and older ones that have never opened previously. The Bishop's Stortford Beekeepers will display their skills in the art of beekeeping in one of the gardens. The Community Centre will be selling refreshments and there will be a plant stall.

Tickets: adults £5, accompanied children free, with proceeds going to local village organisations, clubs and societies. Wrist-band tickets and programmes with a map of the gardens on show are available from the Community Centre, where there is ample parking; there is no need to book. Do come along for a Fathers' Day family day out.

Jane Tresadern
Email: open-gardens@manuden.org.uk



Refurbishment of Headquarters

When walking past the Touchpoint building (formerly the Day Centre) next to the library you will have noticed that extensive building work has been taking place over the last few weeks. This refurbishment has included increasing the building size so there are now two useable spaces, a completely revamped kitchen and updated facilities including a disabled toilet. The space is now light and airy as well as very welcoming with its eye-catching sign above the entrance and touches of Touchpoint's signature pink dotted throughout.

During an evening unveiling and volunteer get together it was widely noted that everyone loves the new layout and cannot wait for the community to benefit from it. This refurbishment is the first phase of the building's transformation with more exciting plans for the future. The inclusion of high-speed internet will also mean that all attendees can use this facility. I would encourage everyone to come and have a look at the building and check out the timetable of events each week. With more space to use within the building I would also like to give readers a chance to suggest things which they believe could benefit the community, which Touchpoint does not currently offer. Suggestions and feedback are always welcome so we can improve our services to as many people as possible. Please do pop in and speak to a volunteer or email info@thetouchpoint.org with any suggestions or to find out about the current timetable.

Hannah

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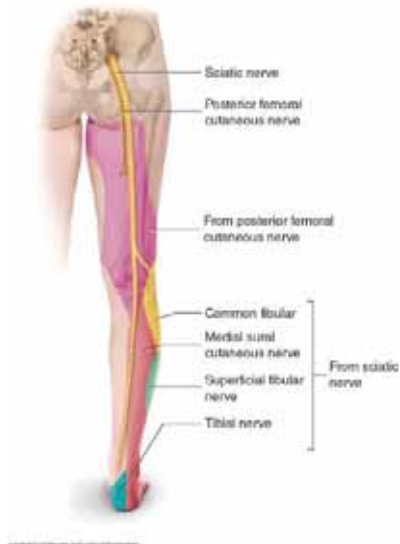
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BRAIN TRAINING

It is my nerves! Part 1

Nerves matter. If we had no nerves, we would be a heap on the floor. They are an important part of rehabilitation and can be the cause of pain or worrisome weakness. What do they do? They carry vital information. The brain instructs the body and the body instructs the brain via its nerves; this



is the nervous system. Nerves therefore both ascend and descend, frequently through the same nerve. There are many nerves! For now, let us talk about the sciatic nerve, which is simply huge. It leaves the spinal column, passing through the piriformis, a muscle in the hip. The accompanying picture shows the areas it covers. The sciatic nerve branches off into smaller nerves which let you kick your

own bottom or move your feet plus wiggle your toes. Some branches are purely for sensation; these are called cutaneous.

These nerves of sensation are easily overlooked. For example, the saphenous nerve does not make any muscles contract, but only carries information about sensations involving the skin. Why does this matter? Have you ever tried running on numb feet? It is awful. Very hard to achieve a personal best running up Chapel Hill if you cannot feel your feet. The brain just slows us down due to insufficient sensation input. To add to the wonder, information about the state of the muscles, the joint tissues and the various sensations felt in the layers of the skin is sent back up the sciatic nerve via the spinal column to the thalamus. This is located above the brainstem, and it decides whether the ascending information requires action or not. Most information requires no action; after all, the sensation of our pants on our bottom is only important if our pants are falling down.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



www.letstalkstansted.org

At our Annual General Meeting in May, we provided a summary of our local Mental Health and Wellbeing survey, plus an overview of our plans for the next 12 months. The anonymous survey results allow us to improve our community support for those facing mental health issues. Thank you to all of those who completed the survey and to the Social Club for hosting the AGM.

In June, we will be focusing on two important topics: men's health and loneliness. As the weather improves we will be working hard at the veg and work shed at Elms Farm allotments. More information, and details of future events can be found on our website. Loneliness Awareness Week from 10th to 16th June is a national annual event. This year's theme, *Random Acts of Connection*, encourages people to increase interactions with others, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant. By doing so, we can create those simple, everyday moments of connection that help us feel happier, less lonely and increase our sense of belonging. Whether it is a friendly chat in a queue, a smile at a neighbour, a phone call to a friend, or through joining a new activity or event, every act of connection can help lift people's mood and brighten their day. At our Valentine's event earlier this year, we felt privileged to share a moment connecting with our community. It was heartwarming to see people come together and their interactions with our team. So, let us make a conscious effort to increase those moments of connection during Loneliness Awareness Week and beyond. As always, we are here for you if you need to talk. Please remember, you are not alone.

Nikki Downing
Email: info@letstalkstansted.org

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I volunteer at the Royal Free Radio, which was Radio Enfield when I joined 44 years ago. I have presented a request programme to patients on Tuesday evenings 8.00pm-9.00pm every week since I joined. The audience are based in Chase Farm, North Middlesex and Royal Free hospitals. I was nominated for the *Lifetime Achievement Award* by one of our trustees for my long service and for the good work which I have done for the station. I was very pleased to be nominated and honoured to actually receive the award.



The ceremony was carried out at Enfield Civic Centre with many people from other local charities. My family are very proud of my prestigious award as is my partner Sheila Brown with whom I live in Stansted. I have lived in the village for 14 years but I have been with Sheila for 30 years. I feel very honoured to have been acknowledged in this way for doing something I love.

Joe Forster



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Disability charity Accuro Care Services is excited to announce their *Day Rave* featuring DJ Digital Pocahontas, on **Sunday 2nd June** at the Uttlesford Council Depot in Little Canfield. The first fundraising event of its kind for the charity, and for the local area, the Day Rave features *Standon Calling* artist DJ Digital Pocahontas, who will be on the decks from 2.00pm-5.00pm. There will be a breakout room with a glitter and tattoo bar, a glimmer selfie curtain, glow sticks and light refreshments to enjoy, as well as Coco's Crepes and a coffee van outdoors.



The depot, which is the former banana factory, will create the perfect warehouse atmosphere and a unique opportunity for friends and family to get together, have a party and dance the day away. Accuro's Fundraising Manager, Sue Fishpool, said: *We are so excited to be bringing this unique event to the local area and in line with the ethos of Accuro, the event is inclusive and open to everyone. It is a chance to escape for an afternoon of pure joy and happiness, whilst making a difference to the lives of local people with a disability. We really want everyone to have an amazing time and lots of fun.* The event is family friendly. Alcohol will not be sold or permitted at the venue and under 18s must be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult. Tickets: £10 adults and over 10s, £5 aged 10 and under available from our website.

Accuro is a small charity supporting local children, young people and adults with disabilities in West Essex by providing services that are fun, safe and inclusive. These services reduce social isolation and empower members by providing accessible social and leisure opportunities which allow members to develop life skills, gain confidence and self-esteem as well as make friends.

Katie Bullett
Email: katie@accuro.org.uk



CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

At the well-attended soup lunch in April, a large variety of delicious soup and bread rolls, kindly donated by Stansted Co-op, were enjoyed. After the addition of Gift Aid, £415 was raised for Christian Aid to contribute to changing the lives and giving hope to those living in poverty. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579

Music Weekend

It is not long now until we welcome *Post Floyd Dream* (Pink Floyd tribute band) for *The Great Gig* in St Mary's Church! You will *Wish You Were Here* for one of the *Happiest Days of our Lives!! Is there anybody out there* wanting tickets? *Post Floyd Dream* is an Essex-based band who recently played at Lavenham church and Chelmsford Cathedral with rave reviews. We are absolutely thrilled and so lucky to have them play here for us! They will be here **Saturday 6th July**; doors open 7.15pm, performance 8.00pm-11.00pm. Tickets: £25.00 available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-st-marys-stansted or tel: 03336 663366. There will be a cash bar available. With a laser light show and amazing acoustics in church I have *High Hopes* of an amazing evening. *Wish You Were Here?* Get your tickets soon and *Shine on you crazy diamonds!*

On **Sunday 7th July** 3.00pm-5.00pm we will be hosting *That Other Band*. Playing and singing popular themes from the 1940s with vocals, saxophones, trumpets, flutes, and a cracking rhythm section of drums, bass, piano and guitar, we will be in for a real treat of an afternoon. Entry is free but donations are very welcome and a bar is available too. So put a note in your diaries to join us for a very special weekend here at St Mary's church.



Lynda Dale
Chairman
Tel: 07716 099474



Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th June** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts. Coffee will be available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Colin Pink on *The Fate of Art in the Nazi Era*.



The Nazis are famous for their opposition to and for ridiculing modern art and our lecture will show what happened to modernist artists during this period. It also created undreamed of opportunities for those artists, sculptors and film makers who chose to work in the styles that the Nazi leadership accepted, and we will

also look at the rarely seen work of some of these artists. Come and be entertained and enlightened. Our membership secretary is Jenny Savage, tel 656065 or email: info@tasbs.org.uk. Visitors are always welcome; suggested donation £7.

Michael Fitch
Tel: 07885 484274
Email: mick.fitch@btconnect.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

...with news of D-day Commemoration Service, the cemetery near St Mary's Church, Bloor's plans for stage 2 of their Walpole Meadows development, Parish Councillors' attendance records, and the recent renovation of buildings at 72 Chapel Hill

Cemetery Hits Capacity

Ever since the parish cemetery next to St Mary's Church was first administered by the parish council in 1956, we have tried to accommodate any resident's wishes to be buried at the site off Church Road. Sadly, the day has come when this is no longer possible. Stansted is now a much bigger village than it was in the 1950s. There are now an estimated 500 graves and cremation plots at a cemetery that occupies just half an acre of land. With no extra capacity, the cemetery has simply almost run out of space.

SMPC has been working with landowners to find more burial land. The good news is, they are open to the possibility. The bad news? Offers come with obvious caveats — further housing development in the village. But even if these can be negotiated and a site be found, extensive soil testing and archaeological studies will be needed and the land prepared. These could take up to a year. So, there is no short-term fix on the horizon.

Until land can be found, our cemetery will remain open for you to pay respects to your loved ones. We will also be honouring any existing commitments made for burials and internments will still be possible for family graves with capacity. But, for all other circumstances, we can only advise residents to consult with funeral directors for nearby alternatives.



Dendrophile Wanted

If you are a dendrophile, especially one with a Level 2 qualification in basic tree surveying, the Parish Council would like to hear from you! In plain English language, we need someone with a love of trees to be our voluntary tree warden.

What does that involve? Basically, we need you to help us make assessments on the health and safety of trees on land that we have a duty of care for. This could involve, for example, looking into instances where a resident has suggested a tree is posing a risk to property. Or perhaps you may be asked to check on a tree near a playground that could be a risk to the public.

What you will not be doing is climbing up trees. Or getting familiar with a chainsaw. The work of felling trees and branches is left to an arboriculturist. Your job will be to let us know when we need to hire one.

You also will not be asked to spend your time inspecting hundreds of trees either. We commission regular professional Tree Surveys to take care of that. All that we really ask is you become acquainted with our Tree Management Policy and agree to inspect any tree that is brought to our attention as a potential problem.

Our tree policy is on our website and is a great way to get some insight into the important role played by a tree warden in our community.

If being a tree warden sounds right up your street, why not contact us via email? info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk. Or pop into our offices at the Mountfitchet Exchange if you prefer a bit of a chat to find out more about what the role entails.



One of the roles of a tree warden is to advise when a tree surgeon's services are needed

80th Anniversary of D-Day



In conjunction with St John's Church, we will be holding a small D-Day Commemoration Service in the Memorial Gardens on Thursday 6th June at 11am. We understand some people will be working and children will be at school, but if you are able to attend, we would be delighted to see you there.

Community Litter Pick 2024



Collecting rubbish left by others isn't everyone's preferred way of spending a Saturday morning. Particularly a cold, wet one. Which is why we have nothing but nice words for the hardy individuals who did just that and turned out for our Community Litter Pick in April. Joining Parish Councillors and Youth Councillors were Forest Hall School pupils, experienced litter picking couples, the odd parliamentary candidate, even the editor of this esteemed publication! Two hours of trawling hedgerows, footpaths and play areas left our Stansted almost 20 bags of litter cleaner. Thank you one and all.

Working Group's Call for Volunteers

We are seeking volunteers interested in joining our airport working group.

About the Working Group: The Working group reports to Full Council and serves to assist it in understanding the impacts of the airport on the parish and to propose actions which will benefit our community.

What is involved: SMPC would like the working group to meet regularly (at least quarterly), to discuss airport related matters, with the aim of fostering a more informed and active relationship with the airport. The group may also be required to meet in support of specific parish business such as helping to develop our response to noise consultations, planning applications etc.

If you are interested in being a member of the working group, email info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk



Walpole Meadows 2 Update

Members of the Parish Council's Planning Working Group recently met with representatives of Bloor Homes ahead of the community engagement event they held on 24th April.

The masterplan layout was discussed, and they explained the rationale for having the country park at the northern end of the site to act as a green buffer to minimise the visual impact of the proposed development as you approach the village from the north. It was reassuring to hear the Phase 2 development allows for a much wider boundary to the western side where it meets Pennington Lane. Some houses in Phase 1 were built so close to the boundary that sections of the ancient hedgerow were lost forever, and members made clear that this must not be repeated.

Clarification was sought on the current position regarding the two sites allocated in Phase 1 for educational provision. Whilst land will be available in Phase 2 for a community facility, funds will be required from elsewhere to design and build it.

It was confirmed that Bloor are considering our request for off-site highway improvements to include upgrading the footway from High Lane, around the corner and along the B1383 to Five Acres and installing street lighting. Ideally this would be accompanied by an application to reduce the speed limit to 30mph as far as the roundabout at the entrance to the development.

Finally, Bloor are also proposing to close off a section of Pennington Lane to traffic thereby making it more enjoyable for walkers, horse-riders, cyclists etc. This is a long-held wish of the Parish Council.



Site plan for the development
<https://bloorhomes-stansted.co.uk>

Day Centre Makeover 2024

It is exciting for the buildings at 72 Chapel Hill, which reopened at the end of April after two months of renovations ended. TouchPoint raised over £120,000 to fund improvements to the old day centre and the former parish council offices at Crafton Green. With a better kitchen, new toilets, improved access, and more floor space, the community organisation says it can now expand its services at the top Chapel Hill. This is impressive stuff considering that prior to the building work, TouchPoint already ran food shares, advice drop-ins, free meals, community cafés, gardening clubs and film afternoons from the old community centre. A new radio station is just one of the ways TouchPoint plans to use its revamped premises.

Funding Repairs

SMPC was one of several parties to contribute money for the renovation project (see chart below). TouchPoint was able to draw on a £9k reserve set aside by SMPC for repairs to the community building and Crafton Green. A further £22k in district council money, previously awarded to the Parish Council for the day centre's upkeep, was also made available for the improvements.

Buildings Spring Back to Life

The withdrawal of district council funding for its local day centres (including Stansted's) had forced the Parish Council prior to the pandemic to consider the viability of the building at 72 Chapel Hill. Especially in the light of a library and new SMPC offices being built next door at the Mountfitchet Exchange. TouchPoint has undoubtedly breathed new life into the previously under-utilised community buildings, and SMPC is proud to say it has backed the group since their inception in Spring 2021. Here's how:

- **Licence to Occupy** agreements signed with TouchPoint for use of the premises at Crafton Green & the old day centre, which has now been renamed as TouchPoint
- **Rent-free** use of Crafton Green House and the former day centre to TouchPoint
- **Insulated** Crafton Green house
- **Funded repair** of Crafton Green House roof tiles, soffit boards and gutters
- **Parking permits** for TouchPoint at Crafton Green car park
- **Hall hire income** from local organisations for use of the former day centre to be kept by TouchPoint. The money will be used to cover energy costs which, until recently, were covered by SMPC for the buildings at 72 Chapel Hill



TouchPoint Renovations 2024
sources of £120,000 funding

Work to Crafton Green & the former day centre, either funded or partially funded by the Parish Council, stretch beyond the renovations this spring and include repairs to drains, pipes, lower floor windows and installing insulation.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

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Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen
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tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. If you wish to attend virtually, look for Zoom details in the agenda documents on our website:

June 5 *Open Spaces*

June 12 *Full Council*

June 26 *Finance & General Purposes*

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Meet-up Events: TouchPoint 9-10.30am **June 7, 27**
The Co-op: 4-5pm - **June 21, 28**
Mountfitchet Exchange: 6-7pm - **June 12**

LIBRARY

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

ADVICE SESSIONS

Uttlesford Citizen's Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 9.30am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions (see below). You can also ask to speak to an advisor during Parish Council reception hours via computer hook-up. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, June 6** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing issues, access to job training and offer support to overcome addiction.

TOUCHPOINT, STANSTED

The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill your larder for free! **Foodshares** Stansted Social Club Wed 2.30-3.30pm, Thursdays Crafton Green 10am-noon, Saturdays 1-2pm; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 11am-5pm, Fridays 10am-12pm; **Free hot meals** on Tuesdays 4-6pm for pre-school and school age children; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 8.30am-10.30am. Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

GARDEN WASTE SERVICE

The district council's garden waste recycling services will see a waste truck in the Lower Street Car Park on Sundays **June 9 & 23 from 12.30pm to 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. The latest Defib to be added to the local network can be found at the Stansted Social Club on Lower Street.



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BRITISH RED CROSS OPEN GARDEN

The lovely garden at Gaston House, Little Hallingbury CM22 7QS, will be open on **Sunday 23rd June** 2.00pm-5.00pm. It is a formal garden in the style of Repton with herbaceous borders.



Refreshments will be available. Entry: £6, cash only; all proceeds will go to the British Red Cross. For further information call Emma on 07716 097711 or email: emmajaneslater@redcross.org.uk.

Rosina Kirkwood



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

Sustainable Travel

I recently went to Australia to see my brother after not having seen him for eight years. His farm was suffering from lack of rain, none of note for six months. We could not use the barbecue due to extreme fire risk. Climate change is clearly affecting them. Obviously I flew there, out via Heathrow back via Stansted. How much CO₂ did this involve? I flew economy so my share was *only* 6.2 tons; if it had been business class maybe 24.6 tons. I calculated this using an online guide. This has made me think; there is no real alternative for Australia apart from not going, but for Europe? Another suggested calculation of CO₂ is per km:

Long haul flight	150g	Short haul flight	255g
Petrol car	192g	Train	41g
Eurostar	6g	Walk or cycle	0g

Estimates vary, but the picture is clear; where possible we should use trains rather than drive or fly. What prevents us from making this choice? For some journeys time may be a factor but the flying time is increased by the airport time. The big issue is **cost**. Travelling to France to see our son by train costs about three times the cost of flying. In Britain train fares for families are very high. However, there are options to make it cheaper. Booking ahead and using rail-cards and off-peak saves money as do the periodic *Hare Fare* deals on Greater Anglia. Cambridge trains let you take your bicycle, which is CO₂ free, in order to extend the journey. Sadly, Stansted Express does not accept bikes. For short journeys walk or cycle. Then bus or train if possible. Limit driving and flying to reduce CO₂ emissions. What do you think? Please contact us or see our Facebook page.

Allen MacPherson
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Hundred Parishes includes much of the extensive barley-growing area of the Hertfordshire and Essex borders. The malting of barley in preparation for its use in the brewing industry was a significant activity in several of our larger villages and market towns, especially along the River Stort, from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

Evidence is still to be found in the form of place names indicating the location of former maltings, such as *Malting(s) Lane* in Much Hadham and Chrishall; and in the names of buildings that were once maltings or associated with one nearby. Thus there are a number of *Malting(s) Cottage(s)*, as in Linton, Bartlow, Much Hadham, Aspenden and Ugley; and *Old Maltings* as at Arkesden, Great Chesterford and Ma-nuden (see below). In Little Hallingbury there is *Malting Farm* and *The Old Brick Malting*.



As well as conversion to private houses, surviving maltings have been renovated and converted to a variety of uses. Great Dunmow's is now a museum and community resource. In Wethersfield the maltings is now the village hall and shop, while the station maltings in Newport and those in Central Arcade in Saffron Walden are commercial premises. Multi-storey maltings in Sheering have been converted into apartments and in Stanstead Abbots to a business centre.

The classic form of a malting reflects the various processes which took place within the building. Grain was hauled in through the *lucam* or hoist housing at one end of the building where it was then steeped in water to start the germination process. The grain was laid out on *germination floors* before growth was halted at a particular stage by applying heat in the *kiln* at the other end of the building. The process of initiating and then halting germination is known as *malting*.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
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THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

www.thegunyahvineyard.com

At the Gunyah Vineyard we are mad about all things wine, and we would like to share our knowledge and passion with the local community in a regular feature for The Link. We are calling it *Through the Grapevine*, starting with a very brief history of winemaking in the UK; or should we say: *What have the Romans ever done for us?* They started growing wine in Britain as early as 43BC after emperor Claudius began the conquest of the British Isles. Wine-making was disrupted by invasions by the Jutes, the Angles, and the Saxons and was pretty much stopped by invasions of the Vikings. Winemaking in the UK was slow to recover and by the Norman invasions 42 vineyards were recorded in the Domesday book. The Middle Ages brought competition for home grown wine from our new trade with France and the rest of Europe and Britain became better known for sourcing, importing and bottling rather than growing wine.



British wine took further hits throughout the 18th and 19th centuries as reduced import taxes flooded the country with European wines, which were cheaper and better. The 20th century brought war to England and vineyards gave way to crops; it was not until the 1950s when England began wine production on scale again, pioneered by people like George Ordish. As our climate changes, the 21st century brings back wine-making opportunities to the area, with our climate now close to those of the best wine producing regions such as Champagne, and the opportunity to grow grapes such as Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier.

Rob Wakefield



RECYCLING



A reminder that we are also now recycling old and foreign coins, all of which are sold by weight to raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). We are also still collecting spectacles with or without cases, along with ink cartridges (**not** toners), stamps, mobile phones, ipads and tablets (**not** laptops). Please make sure all personal data has been erased; the easiest way to do this is by a *factory reset*. It would be helpful if **all items** could be placed in a paper/plastic bag or envelope; please use a separate one for each category and do not mix items. Donations 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.

A reminder that there are two organisations which refurbish laptops or printers and donate to schools and charities; both will collect from you free of charge. Contact Cambridge Recycling Centre on 01223 473875 email: sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk or Townstech in Harlow tel 898240 www.townstech.co.uk.

Aldi and Co-op Packaging

Aldi in Bishop's Stortford will accept the following: crisp packets, pet food pouches, plastic film, sweet wrappers, plastic bags, biscuit wrappers and bread bags. Stansted Co-op also has a collection point near the entrance for vegetable, fruit and bread bags, crisp packets and biscuit wrappers. Please note *that we are not collecting on behalf of Aldi or the Co-op so please do not bring these items to the church.*



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



STANSTED LIB DEMS LIGHT SUPPER CLUB

Alison Phillips to be our Speaker

Alison is a leading national journalist who edited the Daily Mirror until recently. She grew up in Stansted and her parents, Mary and Ralph Phillips, still live in the village and will be well known to many. With a General Election expected in the next few months, Alison's views on current UK politics will be both important and insightful. She knows first-hand all the key political players. What are her views on progressive politics in 2024? One anonymous source at the Mirror said recently of Alison: *she was universally loved and respected by staff for her leadership and kindness. She has ensured the Mirror remains the powerful voice it is for the decent, compassionate people of Britain because she herself is decent and compassionate.*



Come to hear Alison speak about life at the top of a national newspaper on **Tuesday 25th June** at 7.00pm in TouchPoint, the former Day Centre. Tickets: £12 including light refreshments are available from Catherine tel: 813579 email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com or Geoffrey tel: 815925 email: sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk.

Alan Dean
Tel: 813579

The plants in the Gardens were back on a more normal footing at the beginning of May, so there was plenty for visitors to enjoy throughout the month: bluebells, cow-parsley, fox-gloves then wild orchids, as well as alliums, rock roses and roses in the flower borders.

We all enjoyed the stunning pink hawthorn in the glade, then the Indian horse chestnuts' floral spires succeeding the British horse chestnuts. There are lots of flowers to look forward to in June, including waterlilies in the Italian Garden, poppies everywhere and by the end of the month, the first flowers in the dahlia border. The *Robinia pseudoacacia* tree's beautiful delicate pink pea-shaped flowers are my June favourite.

The Trust's volunteers will be working hard to keep the Gardens tidy and to welcome visitors on Thursdays, with a steady flow of fresh produce for sale.



On **Sunday 23rd June** the monthly Open Day will be a lavish Tudor event, with visitors invited to meet Lord Burleigh, Queen Elizabeth I's Chancellor and sponsor of Henry Maynard, who built Easton Lodge for his home in the 1590s. There will be Tudor activities for all the family, including archery, as well as Tudor music played on shawms, trumpets, sackbutts, cornetts, lyards, bagpipes, recorders, gemshorns and fiddles. Fun and educational!

The Gardens are open 11.00am-5.00pm with last entry at 4.00pm and our volunteers provide refreshments. Tickets: adults £5.50 advance, £6.50 on the gate, children under 16 free. Visitors can bring picnics and dogs on leads are welcome. For more information about tickets, times, activities and refreshments please see the What's On section of our website.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01372 876979
Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk



Preparations for the fête on Monday 26th August are already under way and we intend to hold a pre-fête meeting earlier than usual with the idea of trying to bring in some new people with new ideas and to help run the event. The date for that meeting is not yet set, but it will probably be sometime in late June or early July. Anyone who would like to get involved is welcome to attend. Watch our Facebook page www.facebook.com/stansted.windmill for news of that. In addition to our scheduled open days, we get requests from local schools, school parties from Tower Hamlets, cub packs and other groups to visit the mill. We have recently contacted all the village schools to try to establish more formal links and we are pleased with the positive responses we have had so far.

The youngsters who visit the mill always enjoy climbing the step ladders to the top floor. There are also important educational objectives which can be addressed during visits. Examples are farming, food to table and looking at structures and human features in the local area, which the reception class at Magna Carta School want to focus on when they visit. In order to support the teachers and group leaders who bring groups, we want to produce some activity sheets for the youngsters. We have a quote of £300 to design and print the sheets and Cllr Sell has agreed to fund 50% of the cost from his District Councillors Grant fund. We hope to secure the remaining £150 from commercial sponsorship.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 07739 428352
Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk



We are delighted to announce we have been awarded a £3,000 grant from East Herts Council to support the costs of our Get Active sports club, Performing Arts club and Cottage Crew Saturday club. These clubs improve the mental and physical wellbeing of our members and provide educational and social opportunities to those with learning disabilities and special additional needs.

Cllr Alex Daar, Executive Member for Communities said *It is crucial that all local residents can benefit from opportunities to enjoy sport and the arts. As such, it is wonderful to see the many different needs and interests of our community being met by this fantastic local charity. I know that the families of these young people will greatly appreciate the ongoing efforts of Grove Cottage, and hopefully this funding will help support them in the tremendous work they do.*

Sarah Smith
Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

We missed opening the green on the 27th April due to the accumulation of bad weather during March and the beginning of April, and it still has not improved much. We should be kicking off our men's and ladies' leagues by now, but alas the weather has had an impact there also, with matches being played away or being put back. Our green is to be tested to ensure that it is of the highest standard to host County matches in 2024, hopefully we shall get the all-clear, provided it is not raining when they come to check it! Two of our men's players managed to get outdoors to Quendon along with 23 other pairs. For many it was the first foray outdoors this season. They finished the day in runners-up position; well done to John and Peter. Our bowlers have not been able to get any practise in, but they can still hold their own on the green.



Off the green we are proud to say that we continue to support the local community, our defibrillator is getting regular use by First Responders. Touchpoint have returned to their refurbished home at Crafton Green. If you fancy being part of a friendly club which offers a subsidised bar, lots of banter and other activities for you to get involved in, then come along to the Club on a Friday evening where one of the players will show you around; alternatively contact me and I will help answer your questions and get you started. Please see our website for further information.

Peter Beattie
Hon Secretary

Tel: 07850 329192

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com



Stansted Tennis Club
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

The tennis year is now in full swing. The second ladies' team were successful in winning their division in the Essex Small Clubs League winter season. The summer league season is now being played with Stansted entering five teams, three

ladies' doubles, one mixed doubles and one men's doubles who play against other small clubs in the area. The annual club championship knockout matches are being played over the next few months, culminating in the final's day on 7th September. In addition to this there are ladder matches, fun tournaments and cup matches being played as well as social club tennis on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, when any member can turn up and play. There is also a men's only night on the first Monday evening of the month and a ladies' only evening on the second Monday evening of every month.

Our new coach, Dan Warwick, has recently run a successful series of Sunday morning coaching sessions for juniors who are new to tennis. On 12th May he started adult beginner lessons on Sundays 9.00am-10.00am. If you would like to find out about lessons from Dan please contact him on danw.tennis@gmail.com. Coaching is also offered by Martyn Taplin and details can be found about this and all our other activities on our website.

Debbie Lane

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

As we move into summer, the dawn chorus that has been echoing through the trees in the forest has begun to quieten down, as the birds are pairing up. All insects' numbers are increasing, including butterflies. Look out for the spectacular red poll cattle who have returned to the forest; be sure to keep your dogs on a lead when walking nearby. Whilst enjoying your walk, if you come across a diversion, please follow it to help us to prevent further erosion and discover a new route.

The National Trust is incredibly excited to welcome live music back to the Forest. On **Friday 21st June**, we will be marking the Summer Solstice with *Solstice in the Forest*. Four live bands will be playing and we have organised a family-friendly barn dance and Morris dancing. There will be a variety of food options and also a bar for good measure. This event will celebrate nature in our beautiful lakeside setting. For more information, see the event pages on our website.

June also sees the first of our summer season open air theatrical productions. We are starting with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, possibly the greatest play in the English language. With a history stretching back to Shakespeare's original company, The Lord Chamberlain's Men present this great play as he first saw it, in the open air, with an all-male cast, Elizabethan costumes, plus music and dance. The performance is on **Tuesday 25th June** at 7.00pm in the lake area. Tickets: adults £19.51, under 16 £10.84 including booking fee, available from the events section of our website. We hope to see you at one of our enjoyable events.

Hannah Underwood

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DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
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Rainbows (Fri)	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		
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Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like your organisation to be added please let us know. Contact details are on page 1.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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