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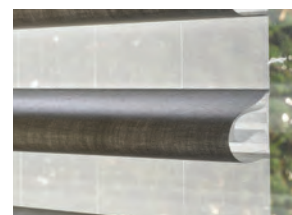
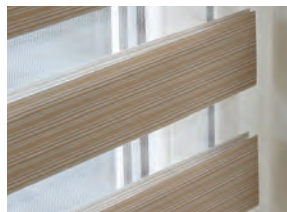
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Front cover

Music in the Park

by Dale Crowson

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Please email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on **9th August**. Word attachment or typed into an email, maximum 300 words; photographs **min 250KB, preferably landscape**, as separate jpg. Articles may subject to editing.

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EDITORIAL



The weekend of 5th and 6th July was due to be non-stop partying in Stansted: Music in the Park in Bentfield School field on Saturday, and the Fun Day on the Sunday for Magna Carta Primary. The former event went ahead, not a drop of rain, though I imagine there were some very anxious moments as it was very cloudy. Luckily, Dale Crowson was there to record the activities. Many thanks to Dale for the action-packed front cover of the Jjarrs' singer. Magna Carta Primary were not so lucky, but had sensibly read the weather forecast for Sunday 6th July and it was dire (torrential rain and thunderstorms), so they took the precaution of postponing their Fun Day till Sunday 13th, and the sun shone that day, much to everyone's relief. It is not easy planning outdoor events on these islands of ours.

One of the benefits of editing this publication is receiving delightful and unusual stories from readers. A gentleman from Dorset, Nigel Day, travelled up to Stansted as he had discovered all sorts of connections here from his ancestors; you can read all about it on page 7. This issue is, above all, great fun, filled with end-of-year fun at the schools, sporting events, concerts, flowers everywhere and an unusual Fun and Games section, which involves identifying local scenes, see page 9. Thanks as always for your informative and wonderful articles and pictures.

Ed



STANSTED SCOUTS

In June, 30 scouts and leaders spent a hot weekend by the river at Two Mile Bottom near Thetford in Norfolk. Camping in the woods with shade from pine trees made for a lovely atmospheric setting. Despite the 30°C temperature, a wood fire was burning constantly providing hot water from our camp boiler ready for cooking, using the *witches' cauldron* as it became known. It was also used for marshmallow roasting in the evening. According to the Scouts the showers had huge spiders in them and the owls were really noisy at night and it was cold. Fairly typical of woods, on the whole!



Working towards their Outdoor Challenge, the activities were air rifles, two tyre ravine, backwoods cooking, camp gadgets, whittling and fire lighting, topped off with water bombs, darts and cricket. The obligatory wide game also took place. Luckily a paddle in the river was lovely and cooling because the kayaking failed to materialise. All meals were cooked onsite by Mark our head chef. Also, doughnuts were eaten, marshmallows were roasted and fruit wraps were cooked in the fire. No one went hungry. The icing on the cake was that Matthew gained his Chief Scouts Gold award whilst on camp, which was very well-deserved. A great weekend guys; we would take you all again. Thank you all.



Mike Byrne
Team Leader
Tel: 812780



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

We are delighted to announce a new group activity following an approach from Stansted Bowls Club: lawn bowls. The group will meet on the first and third Monday afternoons throughout the summer at the Club, with some of their members kindly offering guidance and support.

Our Annual General Meeting took place at the start of June's monthly meeting. The current Committee remains unchanged, although several members will be retiring at next year's AGM. We will therefore be seeking nominations for a number of roles. As a member-led organisation, the u3a relies on everyone playing their part to help sustain and shape our future. The Garden Group will visit Thundridge Hill House, Ware on **Monday 11th August**. The 2½ acre garden features a wide variety of plants, shrubs, and roses, including a distinctive yellow-only bed. We look forward to a talk by Paul Chambers from *Touchpoint* at our next monthly meeting. Paul, a Stansted resident for over 20 years, is a passionate advocate for community spirit. He sees Touchpoint as a valuable way to enhance the support we offer one another and will update us on its latest developments and initiatives. The meeting will take place on **Thursday 21st August 1.30pm for 2.00pm** in St Theresa's Parish Centre. Visitors and prospective members are always welcome.

Finally, understanding modern technology can be daunting, so the u3a Trust has launched a national AI Team. This group aims to help all 430,000 members better understand Artificial Intelligence, its meaning, uses, benefits and potential risks. An online library, updated daily, offers articles on AI's real-world applications. A rolling programme of talks, both online and in person, is also available to members across the UK.

Susan Sedgebeer
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Our calendar of meetings for 2025-26 has now been finalised and thanks to our fixture secretary, Leila Riddell, a fascinating and interesting selection of lectures ranging from the Stories of the Knights Templar to Navigating the River Stort have been arranged. The complete list of the lectures can be found on our website. Our first meeting is on **Thursday 4th September** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint, when Philip Hays will be talking about *Hallingbury Place, Demise of a Grand Old House*. Meetings usually last about 90 minutes including a break for tea or coffee. Membership is only £15 for the whole season, which really is superb value, or you can pay £3 as a day visitor. You will be very welcome to join us for what is always an interesting and enjoyable evening. We look forward to seeing you.

Edward Taub
Email: taub8jr@icloud.com

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

We hope you have been enjoying the sunny weather; a bit too warm for some, including the plants and flowers in our gardens. We have continued to enjoy our Club evenings, and in July two of our members gave demonstrations. They also helped us create beautiful arrangements in special holders suitable for attaching to a bottle and a box that could be given as gifts. I would certainly be thrilled to receive one.



Our afternoon Cream Tea and mini floral demonstration take place on **Wednesday 13th August** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. If you would like to join us for this popular event, please purchase your tickets, priced £15, from me soon. Visitors are always welcome and we would love to see you at any of our meetings. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Sandra Honour
Tel: 07946 582441
Email: sandra@thewesleys.net

Our volunteers have been working hard to add to the range of garden games we provide, ready for visitors on Thursdays throughout the school holidays and our family fun day on **Sunday 17th August** 11.00am-5.00pm. We reckon croquet is a game for all ages; it can be gentle, or aggressive and brutal. We all enjoy Connect 4, draughts, bean bag games and others.

Together with a lazy stroll around the gardens, a picnic, a cuppa and a piece of cake, as well as the opportunity to buy vegetables for supper, we hope we have plenty on offer for relaxed days out in August. We will be joined on 17th August by the Little Easton Alpacas! Entry on Thursdays adults £5.50, Sundays £6.00 (advance ticket), under-16s free.



The gardens are parched, but there is still lots to see and enjoy. The lavender hedges love the heat and sunshine and have been welcoming lots of butterflies and an occasional hummingbird hawk moth. The roses are also very happy. The new rose bed in the walled kitchen garden is covered in flowers and the perfume wafts to visitors on a still day. The Italian garden borders have long included drought-tolerant shrubs and perennials, such as *Phlomis russeliana*, *Crambe cordifolia*, *Hylotelephium* and ornamental grasses, but we have added further dry area loving plants, including white *Gaura lindheimeri* (Whirling Butterflies), Cool Cream *Salvia greigii* and orange/yellow *Helenium Sahin's Early Flowerer*.

Our volunteers have been watering vulnerable plants and trees as often as they can. The vegetables are thriving, so we have a steady stream of beans, beetroot, carrots, chard, courgettes and spinach to sell to visitors. Our soft fruit crop is keeping our jam makers busy and the plum trees are groaning with fruit. We look forward to welcoming you. For more information please see our website.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01371 876979
Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Before the dissolution of the monasteries, instigated in 1536 by King Henry VIII, the Hundred Parishes area had its fair share of religious houses: monasteries, convents, abbeys and priories. The remains of some can still be seen today.

Tilty Abbey is one example. It was founded for Cistercian monks in 1153 and prospered mainly due to the wool trade before being dissolved. In 1220 a chapel was built outside the abbey gates for use by visitors. The chapel survives and today functions as Tilty's parish church; see photograph below. Little remains of the other abbey buildings, but the site can be visited; interpretation boards inform the visitor and give an artist's impression of what the site would have looked like.



Little Dunmow Priory was founded in 1104 and was home to Augustinian monks until the dissolution. Most of the priory church was demolished, but the southern aisle survived. It is now used as the parish church. Several of our larger hospitality venues were developed on sites of former religious houses: **Hanbury Manor** in Thundridge was once Poles Convent, **Down Hall** in Hatfield Heath evolved from a 14th-century monastery, while **Leez Priory** in Felsted became the home of Richard Rich while he played his leading role dissolving the monasteries.

In Saffron Walden, **Audley End House** was built on the site of Walden Abbey, founded in the 12th century and whose lands were granted in 1538 to Sir Thomas Audley, Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor. The present house was built some 60 years later by his grandson Thomas Howard. While we tend to think of religious houses as a bygone era, Pleshey has one that is relatively new and active: its **House of Retreat** was founded as a convent in the early 1900s and became the first Diocesan Retreat House in England in 1927.



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



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our June meeting was one of our long-standing committee members and her subject was *Renoir's Three Sisters*. In the space of just 45 minutes we were introduced to Irene, who was born in 1872 and her portrait was painted in 1880; Elisabeth born 1874 and Alice born in 1876. Their joint portraits were painted in 1881. They were the daughters of a Jewish banker, Louis Raphael Comte Cahen D'Anvers and his glamorous Italian wife Louise. They lived a very luxurious lifestyle in a beautiful house in Paris until the outbreak of WWII and the occupation of Paris by the Nazis, when their lives changed forever. The moving talk was illustrated with coloured reproductions of the portraits and a nine-page handout was given to each of our members.

The judging of our monthly competition, the theme of which was something French, our usual well-stocked raffle table and refreshments brought another interesting afternoon to a close. Lynda Dale will be the speaker at our next meeting on **Wednesday 20th August** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. Her subject will be the fascinating history of the beautiful St Mary's Church and its churchyard. Why not come along and join us for what sounds like a fascinating afternoon. You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

BLACKBERRY PICKING IN JUNE!

You may recall that Duck Doodles submitted a wonderful story and stunning illustration of mice for our June issue. She has now turned her attention to the delightful pursuit of blackberry picking ... but hold on, surely that takes place later in the year? Apparently not, as they seem to be ripening earlier every year. We can imagine the cause of that phenomenon: that modern scourge, climate change. I know one creature in my house who is not fussed at all about silly things like climate change: my Labrador Suki who is delighted that the berries are appearing earlier now. Like many other dogs, she thoroughly enjoys grazing through the bramble bushes to pick and eat the ripe ones.



Our thanks to Duck Doodles for her lovely picture above; by the way, she holds the honour of being our youngest contributor; what a huge talent she has!

Ed



Stansted Millers

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1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 3rd, Sun 24th

Bank Holiday Mon 25th

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Entry: adults £2, child 50p



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3rd & 17th Aug

Lower Street Car Park

31st Aug

Crafton Green Car Park

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 5th Aug

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

American Dirt
by Jeanine Cummings

Lydia lives in Acapulco with her journalist husband and son Luca. Following his tell-all profile of a drug lord, Lydia and Luca are forced to flee with thousands of others trying to reach America

All Welcome Tel 813056

WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

3	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
3 & 17	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
5	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Sat	Link copy due in today	before noon
10	Sun	Nancy May Concert	St Mary's Church 3 pm
13	Wed	Newport Flower Club Tea	Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm
14	Thu	Perseus and Andromeda	St Mary's Church 7 pm
14	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
16	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
17	Sun	Family Fun Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
20	Wed	Ugley W I	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
21	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
24	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
25	Mon	Windmill Fête	1 - 5 pm
30	Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
31	Sun	Skip	Crafton Green Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm

To advertise your event in the September issue

Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by 9th August

Inclusion is subject to editorial decision and availability of space



Friends of St Mary's Church

NANCY MAY

3 pm Sun 10th Aug

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Stansted Evening W I

7.30 pm Thu 14th Aug

Touchpoint

Home Fire Safety

by Roy Evans

Visitors Welcome



Ugley W I

2 pm Wed 20th Aug

Ugley Village Hall

Linda Dale

**The History of St Mary's
Church and Churchyard**

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FAMILY FUN DAY

11 am - 5 pm Sun 17th Aug

(last entry 4 pm)

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10 am - noon

Sat 16th Aug

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Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants

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BRAIN TRAINING

Mental flexibility. What makes us human Part Three.

An important part of executive function is cognitive or mental flexibility: the ability not to get stuck in our ways of thinking and doing. It is a uniquely human capability. As with so much else, this gets harder with age and with high levels of stress. There are many ways of challenging mental flexibility. A very simple way is to take a different route than your normal one and be spontaneous about it. Try a different food or wear a new combination of clothes. Get creative. As it happens, this part of the brain is strongly linked to being creative. Other tasks to try: get down on and up from the floor in five different ways, including using a chair or wall, as well as limb flailing along with making general ooofff noises. Then there is touching the tip of your nose: stick your arms out, pick a finger and touch it to the tip of your nose. Do that again with the other hand but choose a different route to your nose. How many ways can you take to get to your nose and with which finger? Another simple idea: randomly write 20 numbers or letters on a piece of A4 paper, then join them up in order as fast as possible.



Then there is visual flexibility. The picture is called *My wife and my mother-in-law* by Artist William Ely Hill, 1915. It is a bi-stable image, meaning if we look at it one way we see the beautiful wife; look at it the other way we see the mother-in-law and the artist's opinion of her. This is all about being spontaneous, flexible and creative; definitely something your dog cannot do.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919

POTHOLES, PITFALLS AND CLAIMS Part 2

Making a claim

Search online for *Making a claim from Essex Highways*. This takes you to a page which explains that you will need to provide evidence which proves that Essex Highways was negligent **at the time of the incident**. Read the requirements carefully. This is where **photographic evidence** is of the utmost importance.

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ged or sharp edges, near the kerb or grass verge, loose chippings or worn away layer or in the middle of the road, on a corner, on a narrowed part of the road, damage on the other side of the road preventing you from avoiding the pothole. If there has been a cone in it before, if it has been repaired before to your knowledge, was it full of water, had shingle in it, a drain cover and any other details relevant to your particular issue.

Describe the situation just before

Was there another car coming around the corner, preventing you from avoiding the pothole? What was the weather like, what was your speed?

Describe the damage to the vehicle

Be factual not dramatic and include photos. Only then will the claim be considered. However, this does not mean that your claim will be successful and on the website they warn that less than 10% of claims are successful. Maybe this is to stop people from applying but those are the figures they give.

I hope you never need this advice. Drive carefully.

Susan Leech
Email: sue@heatwaves.co.uk

This follows Part One, which featured in the July edition of The Link



www.thetouchpoint.org

TouchPoint Radio seeks local enthusiasts

Would you like to bring your enthusiasm for local matters to our new community radio station, TouchPoint Radio? We are seeking volunteers to help us create radio programmes which celebrate and raise awareness of our rich local life and heritage. Depending on your interests this might involve working with local special interest groups, helping to gather content and interviews, or editing audio files. You do not have to be behind the microphone unless you would like to be. We are specifically looking to put together teams to focus on:

- Local heritage and history
- The environment
- Arts and culture
- Village Life

No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm for the subject and a willingness to get involved. The time commitment is flexible. If you are interested or would like more information, email: volunteer@thetouchpoint.org with your name and a contact number and one of the team will get back to you. Please also tell any friends or family who might be interested. Thank you.

Alice Whitaker

RESEARCHING MY ANCESTORS IN STANSTED

I picked up a copy of June's issue of The Link and was most impressed by the contents, and especially the photo of Greens Department Store. I recently discovered that I am related to the Days who, for more than 200 years, ran a grocery and draper's business at what later became Greens Department Store and is now the site of The Greens Building. Having learned that the family were for five generations staunch Quakers, I contacted the Stansted Quakers and received a very warm invitation to visit.

I duly travelled from Dorset to visit the Quaker Meeting House in June and learned much about not only my ancestors but also about the modern Quaker philosophy. There are a number of Quaker gravestones in the quiet garden behind the Meeting House, including a stone commemorating no less than 12 of my Day forebears, *just two Days short of a fortnight* as one of my hosts neatly put it.

I was equally warmly received at St Mary's Church by Lynda, a member of the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT). Samuel Tayspill Day had to put his Quaker beliefs to one side before he married Anne Felsted in 1804 and they are both buried in St Mary's Churchyard, as are a number of their children. I understand that the CCT has done an amazing job during the last five years, recording the gravestone inscriptions and saving the graveyard from being completely overwhelmed by nature.



Throughout my visit, I was impressed by the kindness and friendliness that I received from everybody, and I am proud and delighted that Stansted Mountfichet plays such an important part in my family history.

Nigel Day

You may recall from the July Link that Lynda Dale mentioned Nigel, his wife Moira and Jumble the dog visiting the family plot of Nigel's great, great grandfather.

Ed

A 300 YEAR CONNECTION


Quakers have had an active presence in Stansted since the late 1600s. Early Quakers bought our site on Chapel Hill in 1703, initially as a burial ground; the existing farm building became a meeting house. One Stansted Quaker at that time was John Day. He opened a grocery, drapers, chandler and general dealer business on the Cambridge Road which grew over many years as it passed down through the family, eventually becoming Greens Stores. Generations of the Day family worshipped at Stansted Meeting House, and were buried here. Our burial ground has a very large stone fixed to the boundary wall that records twelve members of the Day family through the 1700s.



Imagine our amazement when we received an email from Nigel Day, saying that he was a descendant and asking if he could visit the Meeting House. We arranged 5th June, when four members of Stansted Quakers welcomed Nigel and his wife Moe, who had found out about the historic Stansted Quaker connection from Nigel's third cousin in Holland, who had been going through a lot of inherited family archives. The cousin had found John Day's marriage certificate and a complex family circle. She tracked down the Days to tell them. We welcomed Nigel and Moe and they looked at the headstone, walked in the burial ground and took photographs. We had tea and cake and talked about the Quaker way and how very little had changed in our foundations of faith over the past three hundred years. Afterwards Nigel and Moe wrote with thanks, saying, *Despite the wet weather, we were already buoyed by the fact that we had successfully located The Greens Building, so now know that many generations of Days spent their working lives within a hundred metres of the Quaker Meeting House.*

Yvonne Estop

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AROUND STANSTED

There is always something of interest to see or hear when walking around Stansted. In recent weeks I have come across a man riding an old penny farthing bicycle, seen a mother duck proudly showing off her three tiny ducklings and heard a cuckoo. Can you work out whereabouts in the village these photos were taken?

Loki

A



B



C



D



E



If any of our readers have unusual photos of Stansted which they would like to submit, we would be happy to receive them. Thank you so much. The locations of these photos are given on page 29.

Ed



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our next
event

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AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

We have two large elm trees that stand out majestically whatever the season. Mature elms are now seldom found because of the infamous Dutch Elm Disease. So how do we come to have these two healthy specimens in the reserve?



These trees are known as *Pitney Bowes Elms*, but more properly they are *Sapporo Autumn Gold*, a hybrid between Japanese and Siberian elms. The US firm Pitney Bowes spearheaded a campaign which focused on planting disease resistant elm trees throughout Europe in the early 1980s as part of its *Elms Across Europe* initiative. The patent issued for this hybrid has expired, and

there are now no propagation restrictions, so we will see if we can propagate our trees from cuttings.

Last month we welcomed members of the Essex Field Club to carry out some moth trapping in the reserve. This involves using mercury vapour lamps to attract in the moths which are then released unharmed after identification. On a warm night with good conditions we recorded over 100 species of moth. The most abundant species was the *Bird Cherry Ermine* of which some 500 arrived to the lamps. It is amazing to discover the volume and variety of life that exists in the reserve and which will normally go unobserved.

John Welham
Warden

Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

We have had some very hot weather recently and it is expected to continue into August; so why not cool down at *The Place on the Hill*? Take a stroll down Chapel Hill, or along Lower Street or Church Road and then join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. If you would like to get out and meet people, we offer a safe and friendly environment for adults. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** and everyone is welcome. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is limited parking behind the church. 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



FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

First ever Colour Dash

The PTA held its first major school and community event on Sunday 29th June and what a day it was! Over 160 runners took part in a vibrant Colour Dash, cheered on by crowds of families, friends and local supporters. This lively, colourful event was more than a fundraiser; it was a celebration of school and community.

Families enjoyed a fantastic range of activities, from delicious food stalls and sweet treats to bouncy castles, face painting and glitter tattoos. Local businesses and supporters helped bring the day to life with an incredible show of generosity.

The Colour Dash itself was a joyful scene as runners of all ages made their way through clouds of coloured powder, finishing with medals, smiles, and a true sense of achievement.



The PTA shared their pride and gratitude after the event, saying: *We are so proud of what we achieved together. This was our first big community event and the support has been overwhelming. We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who ran, volunteered, donated, and came along to be part of such a special day for our school.*

A special thank you goes to the head of school and the head of science, for bravely stepping up to get gunged as part of the fun! Thanks to the incredible turnout and generosity of the community, the PTA raised nearly £1,000, which will go directly towards improving resources and opportunities for our students. With such a successful debut event, next year's Colour Dash promises to be even bigger and better!

Caroline Hancock
PTA Chair

Email: foresthallpta@gmail.com



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Bentfield Primary School and Nursery in Stansted came alive on Saturday 5th July with the sounds of great live music, singing crowds and laughter from all; the rain held off, much to everyone's relief.

Music in the Park (MITP) is made possible from the huge generosity of not only the performing acts donating their time and talent but many local businesses giving financial help to make the event the long-standing success that it is. We would like to thank Abbott Scaffolding, AVS, Aviation Ltd, Beautiful Bunting, Belcom Cables, The Dog and Duck, Fin and Fur, Harvey at the Football Fun Factory, Franklins Sports and Classics, The Gunyah Vineyard, Hadham Engineering, Illuminating Gardens, Intercounty Stansted, JKL Construction, The Kings Arms, Lodge and Son's builders, Marshall Fire, Paddle Sports, Prontaprint, The Rose and Crown, Russell Property, Sainsburys, Stansted Social Club and Whoosh Explore Canoe Club. This year the very talented photographer and ex-pupil of Bentfield, Dale Crowson, gave up his time to be our official photographer for the day.



The transformation of the school's sports field into a festival setting takes many volunteers, many of whom are parents and PTA members. When the doors opened there was a queue the length of the path. With two new bands this year, *Polar Honeymoon* and *Deutsche Fabrik*, the stage was in full flow. *Goat Patrol* and *JDS Band* returned to perform alongside DJ Fran who played the Heads and Tails game before getting the crowd back up dancing to some top tunes. At 6.50pm *The Jjars* were welcomed to the stage to play the day out, keeping the crowds singing and dancing along. They rounded off the night with *Livin' on a Prayer* and invited year 6 pupil Sullivan to join them on the guitar.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone for coming out to support the event by volunteering, sponsoring, dancing, singing and getting fully into the spirit of the day.

Tracy and the MITP Committee
Email: mitpstansted@gmail.com



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

Stansted biodiversity study findings to be launched

We will be out and about in the coming weeks, so come and say hello, find out more about our work and how you can get involved. We will be at the Windmill fête on 25th August bank holiday Monday with plenty of sustainable fun on offer.

We will also be holding a community nature afternoon on **Saturday 6th September** at the Quaker Meeting House. Come along to meet people involved in protecting our natural resources and to find out more about the findings of the parish-wide biodiversity study we have been working on with MKA Ecology. As a taster some of the highlights we will be talking about are:

- Interesting species we have identified in our local environment. For example, in a recent field study walk we found evidence of otters living just on the outskirts of the village
- Evidence of ancient woodland within the Parish boundaries
- Habitats that we can enhance to encourage at-risk species such as newts to thrive in Stansted.

At the same event we will be launching a community resource which will give information on what we can all do in our gardens and in our wider surroundings to protect and enhance biodiversity. If you are doing something to protect nature locally and would like to be involved in our event or in Sustainable Stansted generally, please drop us an email.

Kate Allen and Fiona Neathey
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This summer we have experienced an unprecedented number of heatwaves causing a dilemma for weather forecasters. Do they tailor their remarks to gratify sun worshippers or to sympathise with farmers? During the winter we crave the warmth of summer, but when it is with us we are not so sure. That is especially so if drought is making a desert of our vegetable gardens. We are never satisfied with our present situation. The grass is always greener on the other side. How many times have you been to a restaurant and looked at somebody else's meal and wished you had ordered the same? Could our dissatisfaction be solved by everybody having the same food? Probably not. We all have different preferences for food and different perceptions of what is ideal weather.

The Bible includes the story of a blind man called Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus was not too concerned about the weather or what food was available. Above anything else, he wanted to be able to see, so when Jesus arrived in town, Bartimaeus seized the opportunity to call out for healing. Jesus was moved by the blind man's faith and restored Bartimaeus' sight.

Sometimes we can be so absorbed by the weather and what to eat that we miss opportunities to deal with more important things in our lives. Perhaps we are spiritually blind and need our eyes opening to see the needs of others as well as our own. I find that prayer changes things. Why not give it a try?



Mike Dyer
Stansted Free Church



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC
Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister	Rev'd Gill Hulme Tel: 504157 Email: gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk
Secretary	Catherine Dean Tel: 813579 Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk
Lettings	Marion and Mike Dyer Tel: 814059 Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for August

3 rd	10.30am	Catherine Dean and Dave Morson
10 th	10.30am	Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
17 th	10.30am	Rev'd Frank Okai-Sam
24 th	10.30am	Topsy Brice
31 st	10.30am	Karen Quelch

George Lambdon

We were saddened to learn of the death of George at the age of 96. He was the father-in-law of Alan Wheeler, and a retired Baptist minister. George was well known to our congregation, having taken services from time to time, the last one being on Christmas Day 2023.



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

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



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the June draw:

£100	No 123	Ann Conroy
£50	No 183	John Elliott
£25	No 54	Matt Cope

The draw for August will be held on **31st August** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to 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
Email: jean733@btinternet.com



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- 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 Tel: 01371 876145
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 Together on Sunday (1st Sunday) 9.30am
Holy Communion (2nd-4th Sundays) 9.30am

St John's is open most days during daylight hours. There is a special section in the Lady Chapel for private prayer.

FROM ST JOHN'S REGISTERS

June

Baptism

15th Daisy Ann Ackerman

Funerals

6th John Hollis, age 93 - service at St Mary's followed by burial in Stansted Cemetery

30th Kieran Horner, age 58 - burial of ashes in Stansted Cemetery



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Parish Priest Fr Clement Orango
Tel: 814349
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 Mass



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

It is a busy time here. *Coffee with Cops* started on 8th July and will be on the second Tuesday of the month. Come along for an informal chat with our local police. The next session is on **Tuesday 13th August** 11.00am-12.30pm.

Future arts events

Sunday 10th August at 3.00pm a summer afternoon with *Nancy May*, beautiful Nancy with her amazing voice. Tickets: £15.00 from [Nancy-May.co.uk/events](http://www.nancy-may.co.uk/events)

Thursday 14th August at 7.00pm live theatre from *Quill & Inkling*, Perseus and Andromeda. Tickets: £15.00 plus booking fee from www.quillandinkling.com/Perseus-andromeda.

Saturday 27th September at 8.00pm *The Post Floyd Dream*. Doors open at 7.30pm and there will be a bar. Tickets: £28.00 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-church-stansted. We are so lucky to get this band back for a second time and by popular demand. You will not be disappointed! Hope to see you all there.

Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



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STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

You may have seen trains popping up in the gardens! The theme for Anglia in Bloom is indeed trains and so the three K's, Kirstin, Kevin and Ken are working hard to get everything ready and I am sure you will agree it looks splendid. If you would like to join the Club you would be welcomed with a smile; it is a venue for couples, singles and families to enjoy. We have a fantastic range of quality beers and wines to suit everyone's taste as well as two pool tables, three snooker tables and four dart boards. We also have Sky and TNT Sports so you can watch your favourite sport on our large-screen TVs. We have won the Best Club Entertainment award for three years running and will be entering again this year. Membership is just £25 a year, or £10 for the over-65s. This gets you access to events throughout the year.



Entertainment for August starts with a fantastic *Fleetwood Mac* tribute band on **Saturday 2nd**, followed by a *Duran Duran* tribute on **Saturday 9th**. The fabulous *Scam 69* make a welcome return on **Saturday 16th**, performing classic punk and SKA numbers. **Sunday 17th** sees *Jimmy James*, and on **Saturday 23rd** we welcome back another one of our favourites, *Elektrik Vinyl 80s*. We round off the month with a *UB40* tribute on **Saturday 30th**. Events on a Saturday evening generally start around 9.00pm. On Sunday afternoons start time is straight after the meat raffle, around 3.15pm. Remember that we host the Touchpoint Community Food Share every Wednesday 2.30pm-3.15pm. This is open to everybody and a great way to stop food ending up in landfill sites.

Andrew Sharpe
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com

ERRATUM

Apologies for the error on page 1 of the July Link describing the location of the horse riders shown on the front cover. We printed Alsa Street but it is in fact Bridleway 25 Stansted.

Ed



MAGNA CARTA ACADEMY

www.magnacartaacademy.org

Celebrating a season of success

This summer term has been nothing short of fantastic! With sunshine, school spirit and a sense of adventure in the air, our pupils and staff have enjoyed a term packed with memorable events, joyful celebrations, and meaningful learning experiences.

Mini Marathon

We kicked off our sports focussed week with our eagerly anticipated Mini Marathon, and what an event it was! Pupils across all year groups laced up their trainers and gave it their all, running with enthusiasm and determination. The field buzzed with energy as pupils cheered each other on, with many smashing personal bests. The event promoted fitness, resilience and school unity. Well done to everyone who took part.

Sports Day success

Our Sports Day was another highlight, full of friendly competition, house spirit and fantastic athletic talent. Pupils showcased their skills and sportsmanship in activities such as sprinting, shooting, long jump and balancing events. Families joined us for a fun-filled day in the sun, with plenty of cheering, laughter, and picnics to go around. Congratulations to the winning house and to all who participated with such enthusiasm.

School trips

This term also saw some incredible educational outings:

- **Our trip to Parliament** gave our 1215 Committee and debating club pupils a fascinating insight into democracy in action. They explored the historic chambers and discovered how laws are made
- **At Colchester Zoo** our younger pupils delighted in seeing animals from around the world and learning about conservation efforts
- **A visit to The Hive** brought classroom learning to life as pupils explored the woodland and studied ecosystems.

As we enjoy a well-earned summer break, we are proud of all our pupils for their hard work, creativity, and positivity this term.

Jen Pearce
Headteacher
Tel: 703484
Email: reception@magnacartaacademy.org





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STANSTED AND DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Garden Party

Come and help celebrate the highest number of Liberal or Liberal Democrat MPs elected since 1923 on **Saturday 6th September** at 3.00pm in the garden of 7 Blythwood Gardens; many thanks to Mike and Marion Dyer for allowing us to use their beautiful garden again. Tickets: £10, to include scones, strawberries and Prosecco or fruit juice. For catering purposes please let us know in advance if you are coming. See you there!

Geoffrey Sell

Tel: 815925 Email: sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk

Catherine Dean

Tel: 813579 Email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com



What a difference the sunshine makes. It may be a cliché but August really is the month of plenty; just look how newly composted beds in March compare with the same beds this week, packed to the rafters. It is amazing how quickly things grow!



The volunteers' daily trips through the hot weather to water the plot and check the progress of crops has certainly been worthwhile. Those good-looking tasty courgettes can easily turn into mighty marrows overnight, sometimes losing their flavour. There is always time to taste raspberries or our new crop of mangetout. We never lose the excitement of finding new produce on these trips; digging for potatoes or finding a cucumber really is like unearthing treasure!

August is mainly about harvesting and reaping the benefits within the community allotment, and once ready to harvest, donate to Touchpoint. However, allotment chores still need doing, supporting the beans and other crops as they become heavily laden, together with pruning, feeding and strimming the grass. It is the fun of doing things together! Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers; if you are interested in joining the team, please email Cathy at cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

BEES AND BUGS

As I write this is early July; even with a bit of rain over the weekend, it has still been very dry. For pollinating insects to thrive, flowers need to produce nectar to attract them; to



do that, plants need water. Many plants have not even been flowering, and they have been struggling just to keep fruit on trees and bushes. That said, my hives have been very busy, and there still seem to be quite a few hoverflies and butterflies around. What I have noticed is that wasps, being meat-eaters, have been attacking, and unfortunately, they

have overwhelmed one of my hives. Now, when I say wasps are meat-eaters, it is a bit complicated; they are unable to eat solid meat because the narrow connection between their abdomen and thorax (called the petiole) is too small, so they catch insects instead and bring them back to the nest to feed to the larvae. In return, the larvae excrete a sugary liquid that the adult wasps can drink. The larvae are basically little nectar tubes!

This time of year, if you are having a BBQ and there are wasps around, just place a small piece of raw meat a short distance away; they often go for that instead of bothering you. The real trouble starts around October and November, when the young wasps emerge as queens and head off to hibernate. At that point, the worker wasps begin to starve, get very grumpy, and are more likely to bother your drinks or sting. I just thought you might find that interesting!

Kevin Hancock

Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 5th August** at 8.00pm in The Dog and Duck, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummings. The story tells of Lydia who lives in Acapulco with her journalist husband and son, Luca. Following her husband's tell-all profile of a drug lord, Lydia and Luca are forced to flee and find themselves joining countless other people trying to reach the United States. They are all running from something but what are they running to? Have you read any good books you can recommend? Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin

Tel: 813056

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

...with news of a visit from local MP Kemi Badenoch to the windmill, the search for new biodiversity sites, and the Parish Council position to the airport's latest expansion plans

Kemi at the mill



In June our local MP and Leader of HM Opposition, the Rt Honable Kemi Badenoch MP dropped by the village windmill. Mrs Badenoch was shown around the mill by members of the Stansted Millers, the voluntary group that oversees the up-keep of the grade-II* listed structure. In February repairs to the windmill's pointing and brick work were completed. The Parish Council — a co-trustee — made £30,000 of the mill's capital funds available to keep the project on track when costs escalated. In the coming years Stansted's iconic windmill will need its timbers and sails replacing at a combined estimated repair bill of £155,000. One of the Millers' fundraising efforts to cover these costs is this month's Windmill Fête. By attending this event you will be helping the Windmill stay upright for future generations to enjoy. See you there.

Among those who greeted Mrs Badenoch (centre) were Richard Thomas (Stansted Millers), Parish Council Chair Maureen Caton, Fran Richards (Stansted Millers), as well as Parish Councillor and Vice Chair of Finance & General Purposes committee John O'Brien.



600 bricks were replaced as part of the repointing work



More cameras, more security please!

Tackling shoplifting at the Co-op

SMPC seeks meeting with regional Co-op management

The national shoplifting epidemic has sadly reached Stansted Mountfitchet in recent months. One particular hotspot has been the Co-op store on Lower Street. Perpetrators have been increasingly brazen, even going so far as to jump over tills to ransack shelves of cigarettes and tobacco. This is not just unsettling for store staff but for customers, too. While the police are investigating incidents, they are being frustrated by a shortage of store CCTV cameras. The Parish Council is in communication with the regional head office of the Co-op to see if they will employ security staff to support the village store.

Search for fresh biodiversity sites

Sustainable Stansted to help identify new wildflower seeding areas

More wildflower areas may help grant application

Last year SMPC kicked off its biodiversity project at two places in Stansted. A patch was sown with 52 types of wildflower seeds at the knight sign of the B1383 roundabout. While over at Pennington Lane, three types of low growth turf were laid. Twelve months on, and with both areas in rude health, the Parish Council is working with Sustainable Stansted to identify new biodiversity areas. The local environmental group, set up with SMPC funding support, are in the middle of conducting a village-wide biodiversity audit, of which the current SMPC sites are a part. It's hoped new areas for wildflower seeding can be identified by the autumn. Committing to more biodiversity could also boost chances for accessing grants set aside for environmental projects.



The biodiversity site at the Cambridge Road roundabout

Stansted Airport Expansion

SMPC pursues community gains from airport's growth plans
Annual capacity may hit 50million passengers by 2040

Stansted Airport Expansion

SMPC pursues community gains from airport's growth plans
Annual capacity may hit 50million passengers by 2040

In recent months Parish Councillors have been considering their response to Planning Application U T/25/1542/FUL.

Lodged by London Stansted Airport with the planning department of Uttlesford District Council at the start of June, this application outlines how the airport would like to expand its capacity over the coming decades.

At a Full Council meeting in June, SMPC Chair Maurice Caton tasked the council's Airport Working Group to assess how the application could impact the village and what options could be pursued to overcome associated negative impacts. The group worked with Cllr Jo Kavanagh to formulate the Parish Council's response before the window for comments for the application closed on July 21

What is the airport proposing?

The District Council has been asked to allow the airport to build two taxiways to its existing runway and improve access from the airport to junction 8 of the M11. The goal is to

expand existing capacity. Last year nearly 30million flew from the airport. By 2040 it targets 274,000 flights and 50 million passengers a year. The airport says up to 4,500 new jobs could come on the back of expansion.

Council Concerns

Growth of this scale is likely to come with downsides for our community, namely:

- A larger airport workforce may lead to increased competition for local housing
- Fly parking could become an even bigger problem than it is now, if transport infrastructure fails to keep up
- Extra flights may well spell more noise and air pollution
- Yet more pressure to develop on green belt and brownfield land in our area

SMPC as a statutory consultee

The Parish Council has no authority itself to approve a planning application. But as a local authority representing the community, the Parish Council is able to call on developers to offer community gains to compensate for harms that may come with the approval of a planning application. Community gains that we would like Stansted Airport to consider as part of their plans have been highlighted in the box below.

Opportunities for Community Gains

Improved public transport for airport users: Currently 50% of people travel to and from the airport by public transport. The airport should be asked to raise this percentage to 70% in the future. That will need more trains and buses to transport people back and forth from the airport.

Better bus and cycle lane links to the village from the airport: A free shuttle bus for airport workers and college students is needed. As is a safe cycle route from the village, one that goes beyond the business park, but also to Stansted Airport College.

Fly Parking: Pricing at the airport's car parks should be tailored to maximise use, not revenue. Along with working with SMPC to discourage the practice, the airport should re-consider their decision to no longer pay for signage in the village to discourage fly-parking.

Airport Noise: Thousands of extra flights are likely to make air and noise pollution worse. The airport should consider working with carriers to mitigate these problems by minimising the use of reverse thrust and static run-ups when planes take off from the airport.

Stansted Airport Working Group

- » Meets twice a year
- » Made up of 3 Parish Councillors and 4 co-opted members — a pilot, a barrister (and former pilot), as well as a resident each from Burton and Foresthall Park
- » Conducts research and write reports on airport matters
- » Seeks to maintain a balanced position of the airport's benefits and costs to the village

“ The experience and knowledge on the working group is proving invaluable. The pilots' input, for example, has helped us highlight realistic ways to reduce flight noise around the airport. ”

Cllr Tom van de Bilt
Airport Working Group Chair





DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS


Alan Dean
 District Councillor for Stansted North
 tel 813579 email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Local Government Reorganisation

It became known just before Easter that His Majesty's Government is mindful to introduce single tier local government in Essex. That would mean that the two-tier district and county council system would disappear to be replaced with groupings of present districts to form larger, single-tier authorities that carry out today's responsibilities performed by both district and county councils. Parish councils are said to be unaffected by this proposed reorganisation.

If this does proceed, the argument today is whether the single-tier unitary authority that includes Uttlesford should include two other districts, namely Epping Forest and Harlow, which are adjacent districts, or whether more districts should be added to create fewer but even larger and arguably even more remote new councils across Essex. It is said this would save money. However, Harlow is a more costly authority, so our council tax may increase as a consequence. This is happening at a time when central government is coming under criticism in at least one national newspaper by its leader writer for mishandling its own finances and seeking the wrong solutions that allegedly would repeat mistakes made in the 1930s that led to economic stagnation. Watch this space and do let me know what you think.

Meanwhile, UDC ran a public consultation on the probable reorganisation that ended in July! At the time of writing, I have received no information on public feedback.

Examination in Public of UDC's Local Plan Report

The Examination in Public of the Local Plan began on 10 June, with the final public hearing being held on 19 June. More than 100 participants including developers, site promoters, legal representatives, the county council, parish councils and local residents' groups took part in the hearings. These were held in the council chamber and also streamed online.

UDC is currently awaiting the inspectors' post-hearings letter, which will indicate whether he believes the current draft plan is capable of being adopted.

UDC Freed from Planning Designation Status

Uttlesford District Council has been given back its full planning powers after the government took the Council out of "designated" status over the unsatisfactory way it had been handling major planning applications. Until recently, applicants were able to bypass UDC, by sending applications directly to central government planning inspectors for determination; but no longer!

Community Achievement Awards

The Uttlesford Community Achievement Award scheme recognises and celebrates those people who have made a real difference to others in the local community.

To be nominated, a person must have been mainly working as a volunteer (though can have been paid for some of the work), worked primarily in Uttlesford and have more than five years' voluntary work experience. UDC is asking for nominations from town and parish councils, the Council for Voluntary Services, Uttlesford Volunteer Centre and secondary schools. Any individuals or representatives of a group who want to nominate someone for an award will need to ask one of the eligible organisations about making the nomination on their behalf. The deadline for nominations is Thursday, August 7. So be quick.

A new councillor on board

In June members of the Full Council voted to co-opt Sophie Gee to serve alongside them as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Gee is a chartered surveyor and a long-time resident of Stansted Mountfitchet. She looks forward to working on behalf of a community she has lived among for 50 years. Her co-option ends a successful recruitment campaign that now sees a full complement of 15 Councillors in SMPC's chamber, after three spots opened up earlier in the year.

Roadworks round-up

There are three sets of major roadworks affecting Stansted in August. Church Road will be closed by Essex Highways for 5 days from August 11-15 to improve drainage, who will also be closing Chapel Hill from August 26-27. The third closure will see High Lane shut after Brewery Lane to allow Affinity Water to carry out essential maintenance from August 21-26. Please note SMPC is not responsible for the timing or approval of roadworks. Essex County Council and National Highways take such decisions.

 www.essexhighways.org/future-roadworks-map

Skatepark Jam 2025

The man to thank once again for organising Uttlesford's best Skatepark Jam is Seann Tompson. As always, he has put in a sterling effort ironing out the competition schedule, organising the sponsorship and prizes, and arranging the catering and booking the DJ. On top of that, Seann will be the man with the microphone on the day keeping things on track.

To catch all the action you will need to get down to the skatepark before 11am on Sunday, 31st August.

Please note because of the Skatepark Jam, the Garden Waste Skip Service for August 31st will be held in the Crafton Green car park from 12.30-4.30pm.



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

NB An answer phone service is in operation to take your messages after 2pm of each working day and the weekends

Office Hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm, Wed 9am-2pm

Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Website: www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil

Instagram: [stanstedparishcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/stanstedparishcouncil)

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are no meetings in August.

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POLICE

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

Meet-up Events:

Thursday, August 14th— 10am-12pm: TouchPoint

72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet

LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

Tuesday 9am-1pm **Wednesday** 2-5.30pm

Thursday 2-7pm **Saturday** 9am-5pm

ADVICE SESSIONS

Uttlesford Citizens Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 10am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during SMPC reception hours via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, August 7th** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing, job training and 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 up your larder for free. **Food shares** Stansted Social Club Wed 2.30-3.15pm, Thursdays Crafton Green 10am-5pm, Fridays 1-2pm Saturdays 10-11am; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-12pm; **Free hot meals** on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 9am-10am. Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

GARDEN WASTE SKIP SERVICE

The parish-council funded garden waste service operates on alternate Sundays in the Lower Street Car Park from 12.30-4.30pm. **Skip dates:** 3rd August & 17th August; on 31st August at Crafton Green Car Park.



Village Defibrillators

Defibrillators in yellow on the map are accessible 24/7. Ones in orange are only available during the working hours of the place they are sited at. **You will need to phone 999 for an access code. The defibrillator will issue verbal instructions on how to operate it.**

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IN THE GARDEN

More drama from your cannas

With their tall tropical foliage topped with colourful flame-like flowers, canna lilies bring vibrant, exotic drama to borders and containers from midsummer until the first frosts. Tender perennials native to the American tropics, they need plenty of sun, nutrients and water. Although the *gigantea* and *musifolia* varieties reach an impressive 10-12 feet, most are 4-6 feet in bloom and dwarf varieties are half this height.



Cannas are easy and economical to grow. After the last frosts, plant the rhizomes out in free-draining nutrient-rich soil or container mix; add a generous handful of slow-release fertilizer, and dig in some grit if the soil is heavy. Each rhizome needs a large space in the border, or a heavy 15 inch container. Water in, ensuring that the rhizome buds (or eyes) are an inch or so below the surface. Keep well-watered; use a plant saucer under cannas in pots and

watch for slugs and snails damaging new growth. Inadequate nutrient levels will limit re-blooming; apply a liquid feed regularly to avoid this problem. Your canna will best continue to rebloom if you resist the temptation to tidy it up; avoid deadheading or pruning the flowering stalks.

Cannas die back with the first frosts; remove the foliage, lift those in borders into pots of spent compost, and store the pots in an unheated frost-free shed or greenhouse. Importantly, canna rhizomes still need to be kept moist throughout the winter. I grow mine in large black pots and overwinter them under the greenhouse staging. By May, the rhizomes are pushing up new foliage; they usually need dividing with a pruning saw before repotting in fresh, nutrient rich medium and hardening them off. A few rhizomes can easily multiply over the years to provide enough garden drama to keep and to gift.

Sian Lloyd
u3a Garden Group



www.letstalkstansted.org

Summer wellbeing in full bloom

This summer, we have been embracing the outdoors. Our weekly walking group *Muddy Walkers* has enjoyed exploring local trails, soaking up the fresh air and the mental health boost that comes with it.

Meanwhile, *The Veg Shed* allotment group is beginning to see the fruits (and veg!) of their labour, with a bumper crop bringing smiles and a sense of achievement. We are also proud to sponsor *Unfit Kickabout*, our local football group, which meets every Sunday at 9.30am on The Rec. New players of all abilities are welcome and it has been great to see a growing number of spectators enjoying the fun.



With school holidays in full swing, we know this can be a challenging time for parents. The cost of childcare and the pressure to keep children entertained can take a toll. Simple activities like nature walks, gardening, or creative play can support children's mental wellbeing. For older kids, the Youth Club offers free evening activities; check the Stansted Parish Council website or Facebook page for details. It has been fantastic to see so many community events this summer, especially those raising vital funds for our local schools. A huge shout out to the dedicated PTA members and volunteers who help make such wonderful summer memories. We are excited at the prospect of seeing many of you at the Windmill Fête this month; come and say hello at our stand. Whatever you do this summer, if you need to talk, we are here to listen.

Rachel Dawes

Email: Rachel.Dawes@penningtonslaw.com



RECYCLING



Save your holiday coins

A reminder that we can take your unwanted foreign coins (not notes) for recycling along with old UK coins, ink cartridges (**not** toners), stamps, mobile phones, ipads and tablets (**not** laptops). We do not need chargers but USB leads are useful. 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 donations could be placed in a paper or plastic bag or envelope; please use a separate one for each category. Items can be put in the boxes outside the main blue 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.

Unfortunately we are no longer able to accept spectacles for recycling; please take them to *Specsavers* in Bishop's Stortford, who have a box for them just behind the till. They do not want the cases. 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. If you have Dell equipment, including monitors, you can recycle directly with them; go to www.dell.com and search for recycling.



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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 particularly suitable for children. Now that the school summer holidays have started, if you need somewhere to go for a couple of hours, why not come along? The Fun Place is friendly and informal and imaginative play is encouraged. The children enjoy playing with all the toys and have plenty of space to run around, especially for chase, a favourite with our young visitors, who also enjoy the Sing-Along around 10.30am each week.



Adults chat over coffee in a relaxed atmosphere. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, hot drinks 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

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk



Thank you to everyone who came to our incredible Summer Fayre; our wonderful Parent, Teacher and Friends Association



(PTFA) really knocked it out of the park this year. We raised an amazing amount (£5,000!) which is being put towards new play equipment.

Unsurprisingly the *Gunk Mr Curzon* raffle was a huge hit and the picture shows our worthy winners gunking yours truly!

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

STANSTED EVENING WI



At our June meeting we were delighted to welcome one of our Committee members, Heather Cann, as our speaker, who gave a flower demonstration entitled *No Foam*. There were four arrangements. The first was a square vase which had raffia wrapped round to make a grid to support the flowers. These were lovely garden flowers and greenery supplemented with shop bought flowers. The second was Steradent tubes in a covered jam jar which supported beautiful yellow gerbera and garden greenery, a little pot of sunshine! The third was a hand tied bouquet and the fourth was a lovely green and white ikebana arrangement using a floristry pin holder on a quiche plate. During refreshments everyone had the opportunity to create their own arrangement in a jam jar. Twisted ivy stems were put in the jar to provide the flower support and lovely garden flowers, roses and greenery were available. The resulting arrangements were all very colourful.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 14th August** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. Our speaker is Roy Evans on the subject of *Home Fire Safety*. The competition is a candle or candle snuffer. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr

Tel: 07743 549241



Citizens Advice
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UTTLESFORD CITIZENS ADVICE

www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Celebrating 25 years of dedicated service

This year, Uttlesford Citizens Advice is proud to celebrate 25 years of service from Lyndie Taylor, our long-standing adviser in the Disability Benefits Team. Since 2000, her



expert knowledge and compassion have helped hundreds of local people living with illness or disability to access the support they need, from Personal Independence Payments and Attendance Allowance to Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit.

Her dedication reflects what we do every day: provide free, confidential advice to help you move forward. If you need a little extra help, send us an email, give us a call, or pop into the Library in Stansted, and if we are not there in person you can still speak to an adviser via our simple one-touch video link. Advice is always free and confidential.

Leah Clohesy
Office Manager

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

Celebrating Being Creative

To celebrate our school value of *Being Creative* we had a whole school Art Day this term to celebrate the work of Wassily Kandinsky, which really brought the children's creativity to life! The day began with a special collective workshop where the children were introduced to the artist. They learnt how he was inspired by music and how it influenced his unique use of colour and shape. Children then explored some of his most famous pieces, identifying and interpreting the different colours and shapes. They shared their own thoughtful analyses and connected with the emotional depth of his work.



A highlight of the day was looking closely at Kandinsky's iconic piece *Concentric Circles*. Inspired by this, and while listening to classical music just as Kandinsky once did, the children worked together on a beautiful whole-school collaborative art project based on this theme. Each child created their own unique circle, filled with colour and personality. These wonderful artworks are going to be displayed on a special tree on our *Being Creative* board in the school hall.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

We are delighted to announce that season tickets for the four concerts in our 2025-26 series are now available, starting with the Pelleas Ensemble on Saturday 11th October. The other dates are Sunday 16th November, Sunday 25th January and Saturday 7th March; for full details please see our website. You can pay for individual concerts on the door, but buying a season ticket will save you £3 per concert, and even if you find you cannot make one of the dates, your ticket can be used by someone else. This could be an opportunity to get someone you know to come along and hear world-class live music for the first time.

If you have not already received our newsletter and order form, just email me or write c/o Limes Mews, Silver Street CM24 8HE to ask for details of prices and payment methods. We can also put you on our email list so that you will receive reminders of concerts as they come up. We continue to offer free entry to under-21s, so please help us create the next generation of music lovers by encouraging all your young acquaintances to come and hear something really special!

Richard Allaway

Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

The recent heatwave has been testing for our greenkeeper and players alike. However, as I type this article we have a bit of rain and some respite from the sun. Our playing season is well under way with two mixed teams in the North West Essex League (NWEL) on a Wednesday evening. Our seniors play in the afternoon on a Thursday (occasionally Tuesday instead). Our ladies play friendlies and we have a full programme of weekend friendlies against local clubs. We have three players through to the next round of the NWEL singles and fingers crossed for ongoing success. Recently we started working with the local u3a to give their members a chance to try bowls on two Monday afternoons a month. See the u3a article on page 2. You are always welcome to come along on a Friday evening to our social night. Our Club house bar is excellent value.



I should be able to provide more information on our progress in all competitions in the next issue but in the meantime I will leave you with a picture of one of our many immaculate hanging baskets, organised by Terry Kitchener. Contact our secretary Peter Beattie for any further information, email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com. Happy summer everyone.

David Danby

Committee Member

Email: daviddanby30@gmail.com

AROUND STANSTED ANSWERS

A Crafton Green
B High Lane Landscape
C Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve
D Gall End
E Bentfield Pond



**Stansted
Cricket
Club**

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

After six consecutive winless weeks for both Stansted teams, a recent resurgence has seen the 1st XI team claw their way up to 8th in Division 1 of the Herts and Essex Border League (HEBL). There were two wins from their last four matches, including a narrow loss away to Cloghams by 7 runs, in what was an impressive middle order batting collapse. The 2nd XI has also shown signs of improvement, with one win from their last four lifting them off the bottom of Division 3. Notable Batting performances include Dom Kennan's 1st XI blistering *142 not out* at Braughing. Dan Hanna, 2nd XI, finally broke into triple figures with a superb *103*, following back-to-back weeks stranded in the 90s while Tom Donnelly delivered a textbook *91* for the Sunday XI.



It has been a more successful season so far for our Junior teams with the U10 Softball team progressing to the cup semi-finals. The U11s sit top of their league with two matches remaining. The U15s have completed their fixtures and are currently top of the table, now awaiting further results to confirm if they will be crowned champions.

Tickets are now on sale for our end of season Big Bash Party, featuring live music from *The Jjarrs*, a delicious hog roast, as well as an auction and raffle with prizes. Our recent Airport Community Game was a great success, raising valuable funds for the construction of new static nets. A huge thank you to everyone involved. We continue to welcome new players of all ages and abilities, as well as supporters who simply want to enjoy a drink in the sun with some occasional great cricket at Hargrave Park. Come and be part of the Stansted Cricket Club community.

Emiel Pronk
Part-time clubman
Tel: 07429 058203
Email: emiel.pronk@icloud.com



Stansted Tennis Club
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Tournaments

A one-day ladies' doubles tournament was held on Saturday 14th June. Sixteen players took part and the eventual winners, after an exceptionally close final, were Chris Bailey and Louise Chalk, just beating Marta Hensall and Gail Hogg 6–5. The consolation prize was won by Catherine Gibby and Val Ashwood who beat Sue Simpson and Dina McDonald 4–1. The next ladies only tournament will be on **Friday 15th August**.



Coaching

The Club is running Summer Tennis Camps from **Monday 4th to Friday 8th August**. With limited spaces, please be sure to book as soon as possible to avoid missing out. For more details email: phil_tennis@outlook.com. Beginner tennis sessions on Sundays 8.00am–9.00am for children aged 4–7 continue throughout the summer. Group coached adult sessions, for beginner through to intermediate players are also available on Sundays 9.00am–10.00am. These are perfect for anyone wishing to get back into tennis if they have not played in a while, or to brush up on some basic tennis skills. If you or your child wish to join these sessions, please email: danw.tennis@gmail.com. Please visit our website for details of tournaments, league matches, social events and lots more. New members are always welcome.

Fiona Kelly
Club Secretary

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

MUSIC AT ST PETER'S UGLEY

On **Saturday 6th September** at 7.30pm, we are having a music recital by Sarah Rosewell (Soprano), and Maxine Mott (Organ). Tickets £10, cash only, available on the door. All proceeds to St Peter's Fabric Fund. All welcome; please join us for this special evening.



Robert McKean
Email: robert.mckean5@btinternet.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

We were pleased to welcome Kemi Badenoch, our MP and the Leader of His Majesty's Opposition, to the mill on Friday 27th June. Kemi was briefed on the fundraising challenges we face and she committed to supporting us in any future funding applications.

The mill is open on **Sundays 3rd and 24th August 1.30pm-5.30pm**. The fête on **Bank Holiday Monday 25th August 1.00pm-5.00pm** is always a highlight of the village calendar. We hope to have a fantastic selection of inflatables on the Rec as well as the ever-popular Robbie the Land Train. The scouts will run the BBQ and there will be an ice cream van. All the traditional stalls will be located around the mill and on Millfields along with a second ice cream van. Teddy Bear Parachuting from the top of the mill will be in operation.



You can either bring your own teddy or this year you can buy your own Molly the Miller bear for just £5.00 and she then gets a free parachute jump. You will need to buy a wrist band which will give you unlimited access to all the attractions on the Rec. If you just want to ride on Robbie you can get a hand stamp at a reduced cost. You can pay with cash or electronically. We would love to hear from anyone who is interested in helping with setting up the fête and clearing everything away afterwards. We would really appreciate your support.

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

HUW JOHNSON CLUB



We were delighted to be awarded a grant recently from the Essex Community Foundation to help us cover our operating costs. Thank you from everyone at the Club to the Foundation for their generous support.

For our June session, singer Daniel Lumley came to entertain us and had everyone up and dancing all evening. As always, anyone interested in joining as a member or volunteering, please do get in touch.

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



RSPB

<https://group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley>

August break

With holidays in full swing, our programme of activities takes its annual break before resuming in September. We welcome everyone from beginner to expert to join us in enjoying birds and nature in companionship with like-minded people. Details of the programme for September 2025 to July 2026 are on our website. We have a varied programme which has three main events each month:

Monthly meetings feature a range of guest speakers and are held on the second Tuesday at Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA.

A visit to a local reserve, usually at the weekend. In our area we have a variety of outstanding reserves and the programme aims to reflect the range of habitats and species.



The picture above shows our recent visit to Fowlmere

We organise a midweek short, sociable bird walk. It is three to four miles long, ending at a venue for refreshments, on a local route featuring a variety of habitats.

If you would like to have fun and meet like-minded people please get in touch, or just turn up at one of our many activities. Full details and more can be found on our website.

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

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geofflay.22@gmail.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Cub Scouts (Tue) Age 8-10½	Huskies Charlotte Graham char.huskies1ststansted@yahoo.com (Thu) Bulldogs Hazel Crundall 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs:@gmail.com	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted is Well Read	Diana Griffin Tel: 813056 Email: stanstediswell read@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@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 Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell	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 by emailing editor@stanstedlink.org.uk.	
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242 or 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		

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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