

Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link





RENOVATE

✉ enquiries@renovateinteriors.com
☎ 07747 572013
🌐 www.renovateinteriors.com

- ✓ Kitchen installs
- ✓ Bathrooms & plumbing
- ✓ Electrics
- ✓ Decorating
- ✓ Extensions
- ✓ Complete renovations



Let's Build Your Dream Home.

Daniel Robinson & Sons

Your Local
Independent Family Funeral Directors

Friendly, supportive & professional service at your time of need

Prepaid funeral planning or free recording of your Funeral Wishes

Chauffeur driven funeral fleet

Excellent facilities in the local community

**79/81 South Street
Bishop's Stortford
CM23 3AL
01279 655477**

www.drobinson.co.uk



D BONNEY & SONS MANUDEN MOTOR VEHICLE ENGINEERS

MOT Testing • TRW Brake Centre
All makes Serviced including 4 Wheel Drives
Diagnostic and Fault Finding
Welding and Chassis Repairs
Selection of Used Cars • Color Gas Stockist
Guaranteed Workmanship

*We help YOU the motorist with a cheaper labour rate
Free collection and delivery in local area*

**Please call Malc, Neil or Craig on
01279 813315 or 815946
34 The Street, Manuden CM23 1DQ**

DT Bedroom & Kitchen Design

Bedrooms • Kitchens • Studios

BESPOKE FITTED UNITS

Bedrooms • Kitchens • Home Offices
Under Stairs • Playrooms • Bars
Utility Rooms • Radiator Covers

High Quality Service

For a planning visit and free quotation please contact:
Darryl Trigg: 07765 257200
Email: darryl.trigg@dtbedrooms.co.uk
www.dtbedroomandkitchendesign.co.uk



CLEAR OVENS

Oven Cleaning Specialists 01279 89 89 96

Make your oven look showroom fresh with a professional clean from Clear Ovens. Our fully insured expert technicians will make it shine like new.



Find us on:  **facebook**   

Covering Sawbridgeworth, Harlow Epping, Great Dunmow, Braintree, Stansted, Bishop's Stortford and surrounding areas.

**01279 89 89 96 or visit us online at
www.clearovens.co.uk** The difference is clear

STORT BLINDS

INDIVIDUAL STYLE

YOUR LOCAL BLIND AND SHUTTER SUPPLIER

BLINDS | SHUTTERS | AWNINGS






CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

www.stortblinds.co.uk | Tel: 01279 504121

Front Cover

Bertie by Ann Kitson

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

The Link is published by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and delivered free to 3700 homes and businesses in Stansted. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £11.00 per year, plus postage. Each edition is also available on our website.

If you do not receive your copy please email: distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk or telephone 813680

Editor

Elizabeth Oakley
07950 364509
editor@stanstedlink.org.uk

Advertising

Mike and Marion Dyer
01279 814059
adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Distribution Queries

David Horton
01279 813680
distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk

Treasurer and Company Secretary

Alan Wheeler
01279 813745
accounts@stanstedlink.org.uk

Directors

Mike Dyer (Chairman)
Yvonne Ayres
Susan Bone
Catherine Dean
Marion Dyer
Sarah Ludlow-Elston
Elizabeth Oakley

Photographic Consultant Paul Burt

CONTENTS

Churches	Christmas Services	2	Local Council	Stansted Network	20-23
	Stansted Free Church	15			
	Stansted Quaker Meeting	14	Local Roundup	Stansted Preservation Group	10
	St John's Church	15		Gardens of Easton Lodge	25
	St Theresa's Catholic Church	14		Hatfield Forest	9
	Thought for the Month	14		In Memoriam Eirwen Butcher	9
Christmas Events	Cam Valley Crematorium	2	Fun and Games	Christmas Quiz	4
	Christmas at St Mary's Church	2		Christmas Quiz Answers	28
	Celebration of Christmas	3		Guess the Object 4 answer	27
	Elsenham Community Choir	3	Health, Wellbeing and Environment	Brain Training	17
	Santa at the Mill	2		Human Roots	29
	St Clare Hospice Light up a Life	3		Recycle your Christmas Stamps	13
	St Clare Hospice Santa's Grotto	3		Recycle your Christmas Tree	4
Children, Youth and Families	Bentfield School	7	Features	Stansted Helpline	13
	Birchanger School	6		Sustainable Stansted	11
	Fun Place on the Hill	4		Touchpoint Memory Café	6
	Magna Carta School	7			
	St Mary's School	6		Editorial	4
	SEND Youth Club	7		Creative Writers Come Out Again	17
Clubs and Community	Directory of Clubs and Organisations	31		Hundred Parishes	28
	Huw Johnson Club	27	Fundraising	In the Garden	28
	Newport Flower Club	13		St Theresa's Christmas and Music Quiz	25
	RSPB	25		Stansted 2026 Calendar	11
	Stansted Evening W I	13		St John's 300 club	17
	Stansted is Well Read	25	Sports	Stansted Football Club	30
	Stansted Mountfitchet History Society	27		Stansted Hall Cricket Club	30
	Stansted Mountfitchet U3A	10		Stansted Tennis Club	30
	Stansted Social Club	29	The Arts	Harmonaires	27
	The Arts Society Bishop's Stortford	4		Music@stansted	17
	The Place on the Hill	11		South Mill Arts	6
	Ugley W I	15	Advertising	Index to Advertisers	32
Village Events	Village Harvest Supper	19			
	What's On in December and January	5			

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE (There is no January issue)

Please email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk or post to 7 Blythwood Gardens CM24 8HG by noon on **9th Jan.** Word attachment or typed into an email, maximum 300 words; landscape photographs **min 250KB** as separate jpg.

Articles may be subject to editing

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.

Stansted network is compiled and financed by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. Stansted Link is printed by Sudbury Print.Group.



CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES



St John's Church of England

Saturday 6th December

4.00pm St Clare Hospice Light Up A Life service

Sunday 14th December

4.00pm Christingle Service

Saturday 20th December

4.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

3.00pm Children's Crib Service

9.30pm Bethlehem Mass, first Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

9.30am Holy Communion



St Theresa's Catholic Church

Sunday 21st December

8.30am and 10.00am Mass

3.00pm Christmas Carols *open to anyone in the village*

followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

4.30pm Christmas Mass for Children and Families

8.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass

11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

8.30am and 10.00am Mass

New Year's Day Thursday 1st January

12.00pm Mass

Stansted Free Church Methodist and United Reformed

Sunday 21st December

10.30am Carols

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

10.30am Christmas Day Worship

Stansted Quakers

Sunday 21st December

10.30am Meeting for Worship



CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Christmas Tree Festival

This will take place on **Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th**

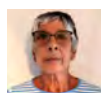
December 11.00am-5.00pm on both days.

Concert with Carols

This event features the *Opus Strings* and choir. It will be on **Saturday 6th December** at 2.00pm (note revised time).

Christingle Service for Scouts

This service will be on **Sunday 7th December** at 3.30pm; it will be led by Rev'd Colin Fairweather and will include carols, mulled wine, mince pies and a raffle. St Mary's is the place to get you in the festive mood. Come and see the magical twinkling trees and candles. I look forward to seeing you all. Please dress warmly.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



www.camvalleycrematorium.co.uk

Christmas Concert and Memorial Service

You are warmly invited to join us on **Friday 12th December** at 6.30pm for our Christmas service, when you can light a candle in memory of a loved one. You can also leave a personal message on our Christmas memorial tree using one of our tags or write a Christmas card for your loved one and post it in our memorial post-box. Light refreshments will be served.

If you cannot join us for the live service, you can watch it from home via <https://christmas.obitus.com> using username: Camvalley and password: Robin. A watch-again service will be available via the same link from Monday 15th December for 28 days following the service. You can find the crematorium on Field Farm Drive, Great Chesterford CB10 1FE. Tel 01799 533160 for further details.

Karen Bayford

Email: automin@btinternet.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

We are pleased to report that after lengthy negotiations with Santa's representatives we can now confirm that Santa, together with a couple of elves, will be at the Mill on **Saturday 6th December**. He will be arriving in time to welcome his first visitor at 1.00pm; he needs to be heading back to the North Pole at 5.00pm so the last admission will be at 4.30pm. This will be the seventh year Santa has included the Mill in his pre-Christmas schedule and an average of roughly 100 children each year have experienced the magic of the grotto which has been created on the first floor. For this year's visit we plan to construct a very different scene so if you have visited Santa here in previous years you may be surprised by how different it looks.

Entry is £5 per child for which they get to meet Santa, receive a present and pass on their Christmas wish list to the man himself. We think this is great value for money and allows us to make a modest profit for our conservation work. We will serve the usual mulled wine and hot drinks plus mince pies, and you will be able to purchase some of our range of Mill merchandise.

Trevor Lloyd

Tel: 07739 428352

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk





ST CLARE HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Remember someone special

The hospice will host its annual Light Up a Life services on **Thursday 11th December** at 7.00pm and **Saturday 13th December** at 4.00pm, both at the hospice in Hastingwood CM17 9JX. These events offer an opportunity to reflect on the lives of loved ones who are no longer with us and celebrate the memories that live on. There will be music from The Salvation Army and a local choir, alongside seasonal readings and refreshments. After the service, guests are invited to explore festive stalls in the hospice dining room, where they can pick up early Christmas gifts. On Saturday 13th, families with young children are encouraged to arrive early for a creative arts and crafts session at 2.30pm, hosted by our Patient and Family Support Team. This informal activity offers children a chance to make something meaningful to honour the person they are remembering and could feature in an interactive poem read for children during the service. Light Up a Life is open to everyone, regardless of faith or whether they or a loved one has received care from St Clare Hospice.



Additional Light Up a Life services will be held across West Essex, including one in Stansted on **Saturday 6th December** at 4.00pm in St John's Church. For more information, or to make a dedication in memory of someone you love, please visit www.stclarehospice.org.uk/light or contact us.

Ellen Munson
Communications Officer
Tel: 773750

Email: light@stclarehospice.org.uk

ST CLARE HOSPICE SANTA'S GROTTTO

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

A magical Christmas experience is arriving in Harlow, when the hospice partners with Harlow Garden Centre and Blue Diamond Garden Centres. Running from **Saturday 29th November to Sunday 21st December** in the Garden Centre, Canes Lane, Hastingwood CM17 9LD, we are hosting a festive event that offers families in the area a chance to visit Santa in his winter wonderland where they will enjoy:

- A personal visit with Santa and his elves, straight from the North Pole, with time to share Christmas wishes and snap a memorable photo together
- A special festive present to take home
- A chance to gather food for Rudolph ready for Christmas Eve.



Tickets are £15 per child, plus booking fee, which includes entry for up to two accompanying adults. Booking is now open; go to www.stclarehospice.org.uk/santasgrotto. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Fundraising Team

Tel: 773750

Email: grotto@stclarehospice.org.uk



CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Churches Together in Stansted welcome everyone for a Celebration of Christmas with Carols on the land adjacent to St Mary's School, Forest Hall Park on **Saturday 20th December** 4.00pm-4.45pm. We are fortunate to have the Bishop's Stortford Brass Band once again. This is a standing event, so please bring your own chair if you need one. Everyone is encouraged to bring lanterns and torches to create a festive atmosphere. I look forward to seeing you there.

David Morson

Tel: 850209

ELSENHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR



We are delighted to announce that we will be holding our first Christmas Choral Extravaganza on **Saturday 13th December** at 3.00pm in Elsenham Village Hall, next to the school. We will be singing a variety of festive songs, some old and some completely new to us, and we would love you to join us! We will be singing for about an hour and there will be festive refreshments afterwards. There is no charge but we will be happy to receive donations for a local charity. We have been practicing hard so do not miss us! Merry Christmas to everyone.



Elaine Terry

Tel: 07747 787973



EDITORIAL



Many thanks to Kathy West for sending us the adorable front cover photograph and for providing this background information: Bertie is nine years old and is the much-loved companion of ex-Stansted resident Ann Kitson. Bertie's mother was a Chihuahua and his father a Bichon Frisé; we think that makes him a Chi-chon! He is very affectionate, but howls like a wolf when defending his garden, albeit only when safely behind the railings! Bertie acquired his Christmas outfit last year when a friend's black labrador puppy could no longer fit into it. Bertie was glad about this, maybe! If you take any Christmas photos, please bear us in mind for next year's Christmas cover and perhaps send them to us sometime next year. There is a wonderful variety of events in and around Stansted that are coming up in December: concerts, Christmas market, Santa's grottos, Christmas services and carol singing, as well as other fund-raising events. Wishing you a wonderful and happy festive season.

Ed

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What was the name of the father of Cinderella and the Ugly Sisters?
2. What colour Christmas was Elvis going to have without you?
3. What carol became the first to be broadcast from space?
4. What was Aladdin's mother called?
5. Traditionally, what fruit do well-behaved children get in their Christmas stockings?
6. Which of Santa's reindeers are named after thunder and lightning?
7. What Saint's Day is Boxing Day?
8. In which pantomime does the villain Abanazar appear?
9. What is the first name of Scrooge in A Christmas Carol?
10. In which pantomime do Robin Hood and Maid Marian appear?

Dave Morson

Answers on page 28



Our first meeting of the New Year is on **Tuesday 13th January** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA), with coffee available from 10.00am. We are delighted to welcome back art historian Sarah Burles to lecture on *Kettle's Yard Museum* in Cambridge which has been described as one of the country's most intimate and spellbinding museums.



Come and be entertained, amazed and enlightened. Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation £7. If coming by car please register your car number at SMA reception. Our Membership Secretary, Sue Chapman, can be contacted by email: info@tasbs.org.uk or tel 508542. Please see our website for more details.

Michael Fitch



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place continues to be a popular meeting place and is open every **Friday 9.15am-11.30am** including school holidays, although we are closed on **Friday 26th December** which is Boxing Day. We meet in the Free Church Hall, which is warm and comfortable. Now cooler weather is returning, why not come along for a couple of hours and help save on home energy costs? All visitors are welcome at the Fun Place. Parents, grandparents, children and all ages drop in and adults relax with a hot drink and chat, while the children enjoy plenty of space to run around and play with the toys, and join in with a Sing-Along at around 10.30am. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea, coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Please make a note in your diary that our Christmas Event is on **Friday 19th December** including activities and a special visitor!

Sue Parker and Fran Richards

Tel: 657116



Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



Uttlesford District Council is providing a skip on **Saturday 10th January** 9.45am-10.45am in Lower Street car park for you to bring your Christmas tree. Alternatively you can contact St Clare Hospice who will collect your tree from **8th-10th January** in return for a donation of £15. You need to call them on 773750 or email: christmastrees@stclarehospice.org.uk before noon on 6th January to book your slot.



CHRISTMAS MARKET



Noon - 5 pm Sat 6th Dec
Social Club, Lower Street
**Come and buy your Christmas
presents before the rush**

Tel 812992
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
www.smsc.uk.com



Stansted Millers

Santa at the Mill

1 - 5 pm Sat 6th Dec
Last entry at 4.30 pm



Visit Santa in his new style grotto,
receive a present and tell him your
Christmas wish

Entry £5 per child for Mill funds



Friends of St Mary's Church

Christmas Tree Festival

11 am - 5 pm
Sat 6th & Sun 7th Dec

Concert with Carols

2 pm Sat 6th Dec

Opus Strings and Choir

Mulled wine and mince pies
Free entry ~ Donations welcome

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December

2 Tue Stansted is Well Read
6 Sat/7 Sun Christmas Tree Festival
6 Sat Christmas Market
Santa at the Mill
Concert with Carols
St Clare Light up a Life
Christmas and Music Quiz
9 Tue RSPB
11 Thu Huw Johnson Carol Service
W I
12 Fri Concert & Memorial Service
13 Sat Harmonaires Concert
20 Sat Ugley Farmers' Market
Celebration of Christmas

Dog and Duck 8 pm
St Mary's Church 11 am - 5 pm
Social Club noon - 5 pm
Windmill 1 - 5 pm
St Mary's Church 2 pm
St John's Church 4 pm
St Theresa's Parish Centre 7.30 pm
Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
St John's Church 7 pm
Touchpoint 7.30 pm
Cam Valley Crematorium 6.30 pm
St John's Church 4.30 pm
Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
By St Mary's School 4 pm

January

6 Tue Stansted is Well Read
9 Fri **Link copy due in today**
10 Sat Christmas Tree Skips
13 Tue RSPB
The Arts Society BS
15 Thu U3A Monthly Meeting
17 Sat Ugley Farmers' Market
21 Wed Ugley W I
25 Sun Music@stansted

Dog and Duck 8 pm
before noon
Lower Street Car Pk 9.45 - 10.45 am
Bishop's Park Comm Centre 7.30 pm
Southmill Arts 10.40 am
St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
St John's Church 3 pm



Winter, Christmas and Music Quiz

7 for 7.30 pm Sat 6th Dec
St Theresa's Parish Centre

Tickets £5, or £15 with fish & chips
Bring your own drink and glass

**Booking essential Tel 850209 or
Email: davidmorson20@gmail.com**

*Come as a team of four
or on your own and join others*



Christmas Concert and Memorial Service

6.30 pm Fri 12th Dec

Light a candle in memory

Leave a message on our special tree

**Write a Christmas card and post it
in our memorial post box**

Followed by light refreshments



10 am - noon
Sat 17th Jan
Ugley Village Hall

Eggs Fish ~ Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb
Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam
Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants
Refillable Laundry and Edible Products
Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts

Refreshments and Free Parking
For info and future dates tel 814052



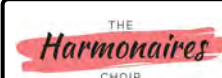
3 pm Sun 25th Jan

St John's Church

Lumas Winds

**Flute, Oboe, Clarinet,
Bassoon and French Horn**

*Tickets: adults £18, conc £15
under 21s free. Pay on the door*



Christmas Concert

4.30 pm Sat 13th Dec

St John's Church

*Includes music by Rutter, Todd
and Park, seasonal favourites
and well-loved audience carols*

*Tickets: Adults £5, children free
from www.theharmonaireschoir.com
or on the door*



Recycle your Christmas Tree

9.45 - 10.45 am
Sat 10th Jan

Lower Street Car Park

One day only!



Celebration of Christmas



Carols and Readings
with B S Brass Band

4 pm Sat 20th Dec
By St Mary's School

**Words provided - bring a lantern
or torch and your own chair**

Suitable for all ages - please join us



10 am - noon
Sat 20th Dec
Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Olive Oil
Fish ~ Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb
Eggs ~ Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam
Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants
Refillable Laundry and Edible Products
Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts

Refreshments and Free Parking
For info and future dates tel 814052

From **Friday 28th November- Friday 2nd January**, journey to a magical land with Panto 2025: *Snow White*. This professional production features a cast of all singing, all dancing West End performers and promises music, laughter and lots of audience participation. The performance on **Sunday 28th December** at 11.00am is a relaxed one, ideal for those who would benefit from a more comfortable environment, with the lights a bit brighter and the sound slightly softer. Can you hear those bells fast approaching? It is Santa, coming back to his grotto. On **Sunday 21st December**, we have a relaxed grotto experience for children who may benefit from a little extra time and a calmer space to meet Santa. Do not miss classic Christmas cinema such as *The Nutcracker* on **Wednesday 10th December**, and *La Traviata* on **Wednesday 14th January**.



Also in January, enjoy amazing nights of live music with *Think Floyd* on **Friday 16th January**, *Crocodile Mock* on **24th**, and *Buddy Holly and The Cricketers* on **31st**. Is comedy more to your liking? *The Adult Panto* is on **Wednesday 7th January** with *Snow White and The Magnificent Seven*, followed by cult hit event *Solve-Along-A-Murder-She-Wrote* on **15th**. Be sure to check out what insightful walks and talks are on at the Bishop's Stortford Museum, and why not visit the Art-Space to see the best of local art? For show times and other information about everything that is happening, please see our website.

Seren Stephen
Tel: 710200

Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk

TOUCHPOINT MEMORY LANE CAFE

We have launched the *Memory Lane Café*, a new weekly free session for those living with dementia and their carers. Join us every week in our warm welcoming space for companionship, activities and a cup of tea or coffee. The café is open every Monday 10.00am-noon in TouchPoint, Crafton Green. There is no charge, but donations are always welcome. Parking is available at the Crafton Green pay and display car park. We look forward to seeing you. If you would like further information, please give us a call.



The TouchPoint Team
Tel: 07572 114882

Lower Key Stage 2 smashed it out of the park in a recent inter-school dodgeball competition. They won all their games and behaved impeccably throughout. St Mary's pupils really excel at this sport, even if I do say so myself! We were lucky enough to have a visit from Alice Sharpe, a current Olympic cyclist, European and World Cup medallist, and a Commonwealth Games competitor. She oversaw an athletics session with the children, which incorporated sponsored exercises. Alice gave a presentation to the children, encouraging them to reach for their dreams and showing them that with hard work and determination anything is possible. She is heading for the world championships next year and is in the team for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028; we will all be cheering her on!

We recently held our online safety day at school. The Two Johns hosted events for all our children. There was separate staff training, and all parents were invited to attend a parental online session. This is an invaluable resource, as we do not often realise exactly what children are accessing online. A reminder of our Christmas Fair on **Friday 28th November** 5.00pm-8.00pm when you will be entertained by the amazing Totem Gospel Choir amidst all the usual festive stalls, and of course, the draw for our famous rainbow raffle hampers. We hope to see many of you there. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

Email: office@stmarys-stansted.essex.sch.uk

BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk



Celebrating life

Recently our whole school came together for a special day focused on our vision of *Life in all its Fullness*. The children explored where this vision comes from in the Bible and took part in thoughtful discussions to deepen their understanding of what it means in their own lives.



Through a range of creative and reflective activities, they considered what makes their lives full and expressed their ideas by creating beautiful trees of life. As a school community, we also reflected on how we can help make others' lives full and happy. Each child wrote their ideas on paper leaves, which now hang proudly on our Fullness Tree in the foyer. It was a lovely

celebration thinking about living life to the full and what that means for ourselves and others.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk

Maple Class recently took part in bikeability, learning how to ride our bikes safely and responsibly on the roads. It was a lot of fun, despite some very wet and windy weather on a couple of days. Everyone learned an awful lot and we became more confident as we progressed. Now comes the challenge to remember everything and implement that when we are riding our bikes around Stansted.



On 6th November, we visited Stansted Aerozone to learn all about the different jobs that people do to make the airport run smoothly. After learning the history of Stansted airport from Nathan, we had a talk from Del, who had worked in lots of different jobs across the airport; then Rob brought the police drones for us to see in action. In addition, we tried four different activities in the Aerozone: roleplay, using different costumes, trollies and aeroplane seats; finding countries flown to and from Stansted on a huge map; making paper aeroplanes; and technical activities like trying to pack boxes in a small space, taking into account air flow and body heat. We also went to the viewing platform to see the different aeroplanes as they landed and took off. One of the pilots even flashed lights at us as they saw us waving! It was a very informative and fun day, which ended with John coming in to answer questions about his career as a pilot. We would like to say a massive thank you to all of the wonderful speakers and also to the parents who helped with lifts to and from the airport so that we could have such a great day.

Year 5 Maple Class



MAGNA CARTA ACADEMY

www.magnacartaacademy.org

There is a real sense of excitement as we celebrate several new developments which help to make our school an even more inspiring place to learn and grow. Our biggest news is the construction of an outdoor classroom, made possible through the incredible fundraising efforts of our PTA. This building lends itself to science investigations, creative writing, art and mindfulness. Every bake sale, raffle and spon-

sored event has helped make this vision a reality, and we look forward to seeing lessons taking place outdoors next year.

Our Year 3 pupils have been making a splash with their swimming lessons. Learning to swim is such an important life skill, and it has been fantastic to see children growing in confidence, mastering new techniques and having lots of fun along the way. Finally, we are pleased to introduce our new school minibus which will make it easier for pupils to attend sports fixtures, trips and enrichment activities, helping us extend learning beyond the classroom. With so many opportunities, it is clear that Magna Carta continues to thrive thanks to the enthusiasm, teamwork and community spirit that make our school truly special.

Jennifer Pearce

Headteacher

Tel: 703484

Email: reception@magnacartaacademy.org



SEND YOUTH CLUB

www.accuro.org.uk/our-services/youth-clubs

A new Youth Club for 11-19 year olds with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) opened in November, giving them the chance to make friends, have fun and build confidence. Run by local charity Accuro, the Club meets every other Thursday 6.15pm- 8.15pm during term time at the Stansted Youth Centre in St John's Road. It offers a wide range of activities including movie nights, bowling, cooking, arts and crafts.



Members are encouraged to help choose and plan the sessions themselves. The Club aims to support young people with a disability to make friends, develop confidence, independence and communication skills, whilst giving parents and carers a valuable break. For more information or to register interest, please see our website or contact us.

Sue Fishpool

Fundraising Manager

Tel: 870297

Email: enquiries@accuro.org.uk





BG
PLUMBING
& HEATING

Our services:
All plumbing and heating works including

- Bathroom refurbishments
- Boiler installations
- Boiler services and breakdowns
- Water Softeners

Based in Bishop's Stortford and surrounding areas

Blair@bgplumbing-heating.uk

07584165668

GAS safe
REGISTER



TAYLORS
DECORATING

Gary Taylor
45 Years Experience - Fully insured
Internal And External Work | Residential And Commercial Properties



Rated 5★ on Facebook and Google
Call For A Free Quote On **07931 663 588**
www.taylors-decorating.co.uk

BESPOKE ARCHITECTURE

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWING SERVICES:

- Planning Drawings
- Building Regulation Drawings
- General Planning Advice
- Layout Design
- Commercial Design
- and lots more

Please contact me on the below for a free consultation
EMAIL: danny@ds-designs.co.uk
TEL: 07738375496



Lesley Anne **PAINTING**
QUALITY GUARANTEED

- Interior & Exterior
- From one room to a complete house
- Competitive rates and references

Tel: 01279 897904 or 07973 364394
Email: lesleyprowse@aol.com



A. WRIGHT BUILDERS
EXTENSIONS • CONVERSIONS
ALTERATIONS
ALL SMALL WORKS UNDERTAKEN

Orchard House, 5 Brewery Lane, Stansted CM24 8LB
Tel 01279 815759 Mobile 07974 989938

Brown's Painting & Decorating
All sized jobs considered
Please call Simon for a quote

Tel: 01279 813075
Mob: 07813 086763
Stansted based
Email: simonbrownjuly64@gmail.com



N & J Westwood BUILDING SERVICES

- Barn & Garage Conversions
- Renovations & Extensions
- Brickwork & Plastering
- Fencing & Patios

For a free quote and advice please contact John
07886 509 722 | info@nandjwestwood.co.uk
www.nandjwestwood.co.uk



T. F. PLASTERING LTD
All aspects undertaken including:

- Skimming • Rendering • Coving

Over 20 yrs experience
High standard of work. Fully insured.
For a free estimate call Terry
Home 01279 416311 Mobile 07738 278036

Thinking of doing some building work?
Uttlesford Building Control are your locally based Inspectors, we know all the local builders, surveyors and ground conditions.

We are here to help!
Please contact us for pre-application advice - call before 10am to arrange a same day inspection.
T 01799 510453
E building@uttlesford.gov.uk




We are now in our new printing year and there are a few spaces left
Various sizes available
See www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising
Call Marion on 814059
Email: adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk

IN MEMORIAM

EIRWEN ELIZABETH BUTCHER

28th February 1933 - 18th October 2025



The winter of 1932-33 in West Wales was decidedly snowy. As a heavily pregnant young woman walked into the family home where she would give birth to her first daughter, a lump of falling snow just missed her head. This inspired Gwladwys and David to name their baby Eirwen, which means *snow white*. Eirwen and her younger sister Gwyneth grew up in the pretty coastal town of Aberystwyth. When she first went to school, she spoke only Welsh, not a word of English. She learned to swim in the sea, had Saturday evening piano lessons and went on bike rides with friends. In her later teenage years, she would go to the dances at the King's Hall. Mum's extended family were coal miners, teachers, farmers and grocers. Her grandfather was a tea traveller who went on to own a Temperance Hotel in the town. Mum's father, meanwhile, did a stint as the Aberystwyth lighthouse keeper.

Upon leaving school, Mum worked in local businesses. In the Government treasury office, she would work with newfangled machines: tabulators and comptometers. However, as charming as Aberystwyth was, Eirwen felt somewhat isolated and she jumped at a friend's offer of a job in London. It was there in the big city at a Young Conservatives social event that she met a handsome young man, Tony Butcher. In 1966, Eirwen and Tony settled down in Stansted in the newly built Wetherfield. With the arrival of two sons, Jon and Matthew, Eirwen became a dedicated homemaker. Mum was a good cook, a great listener and she had a nurturing approach to everything.

She actively participated in the local Stansted community, volunteering with the WI, Huw Johnson Club, School PTA and Seniors' Lunches. Eirwen valued simple pleasures: the daily newspaper crossword and a day out at the seaside. In the evening, there was always a murder mystery such as *Vera*, *Morse* or *Lewis*. Mum was perhaps most content in her garden. The biggest treat of all was the visit to the garden centre at the beginning of each growing season to stock up on new plants.

Dad sadly died in 2018, and over the last few years, Mum was cared for at home by health visitors led by Matt's partner, Boo,

to whom we shall be forever grateful. She valued her relationship with Boo enormously. Mum was humble but quietly determined. She always wanted to know the latest news of each of her five grandchildren. They all felt her love and knew that she would always be rooting for them.

Jon and Matthew Butcher



HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

Winter Wonderland

Winter has arrived and we have a number of events where you can come and experience the Forest in its true glory in the morning. We have *Breathwork in the Forest* on **Sunday 14th December** 10.00am-11.00am which uses a variety of techniques to bring your body into a rest and digest state, helping you to manage stress and supporting your overall health and wellbeing. We are also continuing our *Walk with Us* where you can join us for an hour long, gentle walk around this enchanting place. Breathe the fresh air and move your body whilst connecting with nature. It runs on alternate Wednesdays and Fridays, and these walks are designed to be suitable for any ability. Dates in December are 3rd, 12th, 17th and 31st. More details can be found on our website under *events*.



Alternatively, you could bring your dog for a walk. Dogs are very welcome but remember to keep them on a short lead around our Red Poll cattle and where the sheep are grazing. Elsewhere, you can let your dog off the lead but always keep them in sight and recall them when necessary. So, come and discover more at Hatfield Forest!

Hannah Underwood

Tel: 870678

Email: hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk



BIRCHANGER AND STANSTED GREEN BELT PRESERVATION GROUP

www.saveourvillages.co.uk

Every householder urged to take action!

City and Country has submitted a planning application for 480 homes on protected Green Belt land near Stansted and Birchanger, prompting strong objections from local campaigners. This speculative proposal seeks to exploit planning loopholes, ahead of the expected approval of Uttlesford District Council's emerging Local Plan, due in the next few months. The photo below is an AI generated image of what the development might look like and how it could affect surrounding areas.



Key concerns

- **Loss of Green Belt:** The entire site lies within the Metropolitan Green Belt, rated highly for preventing urban sprawl and preserving rural character. Despite developer claims, the land has not been reclassified as grey belt
- **Urban sprawl risk:** The scale and density could merge Stansted with Bishop's Stortford, eroding village identities and accelerating unchecked expansion
- **Traffic and pollution:** Thousands of extra daily car journeys would worsen congestion on Stansted Road and add significant CO₂ emissions annually
- **Safety issues:** Plans include closing Tot Lane and narrowing Birchanger Lane, already unsuitable for heavy traffic
- **Infrastructure strain:** Roads, schools, GP surgeries and utilities are overstretched, with no credible upgrades proposed. Combined with other large-scale developments, this could lead to severe congestion and service breakdown
- **Environmental damage:** Wildlife habitats, hedgerows and open countryside would be permanently lost. Landscaping cannot replace natural green space

- **Limited local benefit:** No clear evidence of meaningful amenities for residents. Section 106 funds will be absorbed into Essex County Council's structure, echoing past failures
- **Prolonged disruption:** Construction is expected to last eight years, bringing noise, dust, traffic and health risks.

Call to action

Residents are urged to submit objections to Uttlesford District Council, attend public meetings, and stay informed via our website and the Birchanger and Stansted Green Belt Preservation Facebook page. Every objection counts.

Paul Mackie
Email: paul@mackster.co.uk
Rachel Poole
Email: rpoole006@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

<https://stansted.u3asite.uk>

Whether we consider it the close of one year or the beginning of another, these darker winter days often encourage us both to reflect and to look ahead. Our Club can look back with pride on a year of growth, welcoming new members and launching new activities, and anticipate with enthusiasm what 2026 will bring. Our interest groups now number 39, offering something for just about everyone. Over the past year we have added a third Pilates class to meet demand, introduced Lawn Bowling for the summer months, alongside ongoing Indoor Bowling during winter. We have also established new groups for Canasta, Music Appreciation and Understanding IT. Most recently, we have welcomed Recorder Playing and Embroidery, both of which have been met with real enthusiasm. It is heartening to see members trying new things, rediscovering past skills and sharing knowledge with others.

December is always a sociable month for us. Our Christmas tea party is now a firm favourite, when Committee members don aprons to serve tea, not always expertly, but always cheerfully! *The Strummers* provide musical entertainment, and our themed quiz ensures plenty of laughter. This is followed shortly afterwards by our Christmas lunch at Bury Lodge, held in the beautifully atmospheric historic barn, another much-loved tradition that brings our year to a close in good company. Looking ahead, our first monthly meeting of the new year is on **Thursday 15th January** 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St Theresa's Centre, High Lane. We will be pleased to welcome Dr Kevin Bryant, King's Fellow in Bioscience Education, who will speak on *Epidemic of Uncertainty - Rumours, Conspiracy Theories and Vaccine Hesitancy*, offering a thought-provoking perspective on public responses to COVID and the development of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine. Visitors are always warmly welcomed.

Susan Sedgebeer



STANSTED 2026 CALENDAR

www.stanstedcalendar.com

Good news! The 2026 Stansted Calendar has arrived and is now available to buy. You can pick up your copy for £10 from Folies, Peacock Pharmacy, Paris Legore or The Social Club. The calendar makes a lovely Christmas gift, perfect for friends, family or neighbours who enjoy seeing familiar views of our village throughout the year. All profits will go towards local projects, including TouchPoint and Stansted in Bloom, so every purchase helps support our community.



Congratulations to the winning photographers whose images feature this year: Sue Cosham, Monika Rusinova, Gregory Snow, Trevor Lloyd, Lauren Kemp, Dawn Lupton, Ken McDonald and Phil Thompson. A special thank you to Dale Crowson for his striking photographs and to everyone who submitted images; your contributions have helped make the 2026 calendar something to be proud of. From 30th November, all entries can be viewed at www.stanstedcalendar.com. If you are unable to get to one of the outlets or would like to order multiple copies, please email to arrange a purchase. Thank you for your support.

Julie Dawson-Wills
Media Consultant/Producer
Mixed/Up/Media
Tel: 07703 332787
Email: Julie@mixedupmedia.tv



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** during December and January, including Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, so why not come down and unwind for a short while? The Place on the Hill offers a warm, safe and friendly environment for adults and everyone is welcome. Join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. 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. 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



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

Thermal Imaging

A reminder that Sustainable Stansted now owns a Thermal Imaging (TI) camera that we can use to check on heat escaping from the inside to the outside of your house. This can help you see the best way to reduce or stop this heat loss. Please contact me if you are interested.

Bob Burlton

Tel: 07764 182921

Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

Helping endangered swifts

Swifts are fast-flying, spectacular birds and we have teamed up with the North East Herts Swift Group, to install swift nest boxes in the village. These amazing birds rarely land and fly continuously through day and night. They eat, sleep and mate on the wing and in its lifetime, an individual swift can fly as many as four million miles. They travel to the UK each year to breed. Sadly, here swift numbers have declined by about half in 20 years and they are now red listed for conservation concern.



They nest in small gaps in roofs and eaves, but modern building methods are gradually excluding swifts from these spaces. Fortunately, they take to hollow bricks called swift bricks; they also use swift nest boxes which are being installed to reverse the decline. It can take a while to attract the swifts but once they do, they usually come back to the same nest site year after year. Why not

consider putting a swift box on your home? This could make a great Christmas present. We also help house martins by installing artificial versions of the mud cups that they build as a nest. House martins are much messier than swifts and so site selection should be carefully considered. For anyone interested the cost is £45.00 or £40.00 for a house martin cup. This covers the cost of the box and installation, usually under eaves or at the top of a gable. We will visit beforehand to choose the site and ensure that it is suitable. Please contact me if you are interested, and I will pass on your details to the North East Herts Swifts Group. Our thanks to Robert Booth for the lovely photo of swifts.

Emma Thomas

Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com



Stansted Mountfitchet Social Club
Your Friendly Community Hub!



- Live Music Nights
- BT and Sky Sports
- Darts, Snooker and Pool
- Superb Jukebox
- Great Selection of Drinks
- Fully Air-Conditioned
- Fantastic Prices
- Available for Social Events

A warm welcome awaits you!

**Membership just £20 per year
 (plus initial £5 administration payment)**

Pop in for a form or visit
www.smsc.uk.com

Come and relax in our friendly atmosphere!

Tel 01279 812992



R. Handford & Co.
Podiatry Limited

Bishop's Stortford

- ♦ Orthotics
- ♦ Diabetic Foot Care
- ♦ Routine Treatment
- ♦ Saturday Appointments

H.C.P.C. Registered

16 Hockerill Street, Bishop's Stortford

**01279 652249 info@feet.org.uk
 www.feet.org.uk**

TouchPoint
'Memory Lane' Café



*For those living with dementia, and their
 loved ones and carers*

Join us every week for companionship, activities,
 and a cup of tea or coffee.

- Every Monday morning
- Free to attend
- 10am to noon, drop in at any time
- At TouchPoint, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill,
 Stansted CM24 8AQ

Parking is available outside. We have fully accessible
 facilities.

For more information, call 07572 114882, email
 info@thetouchpoint.org, or visit thetouchpoint.org

CHIROPODIST

Mrs Julie Golden

Est. 1994

HPC Registered ~ State Registered

Home Visiting Practice

Tel: 01279 873492 Mob: 07916 075451

A professional service at a competitive price

Stansted Quaker Meeting House

71 Chapel Hill CM24 8AE



Available to hire for classes,
 clubs and organisations

Main hall and smaller room plus kitchen for drinks, piano,
 peaceful garden, screen, hearing loop, accessible toilet, ramp.
 Public parking opposite. Competitive rates

**Please contact Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
 Email: yvonne.estop@outlook.com**



ST JOHN'S HALL

Large hall available on a regular basis
 or for one-off parties and other events

Fully fitted kitchen • Competitive prices

Central village location with some parking on site

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),
 functions, clubs, classes and social meetings.

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



UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY TRAVEL

www.uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org

We provide affordable, accessible transport to hospital
 appointments for those over 60, disabled, or rurally isolated
 We also offer group travel for Care Homes, Educational Trips,
 Day Centres and Community Groups

Call 01371 875787 Monday to Friday 9 am - 1 pm

please leave a message outside of these times or

email: info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org



HELPLINE

Stansted's Voluntary Community Care Service

Need assistance with transport to medical
 appointments, shopping or collecting prescriptions etc?
 No other transport available?

Call 07704 553727 Monday to Friday 9 am - 4 pm

*Helpline serves to harness the goodwill that exists in Stansted
 If you would like to help as a Volunteer please give us a call*

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Our October meeting saw Club member and NAFAS demonstrator, Lorraine Gagen, tutor us in the creation of a floral topiary design. This workshop was enjoyed by many Club members who produced their own designs, each one different!



We finished the year with the Christmas demonstration that took place in November and we now have a break until February. In the meantime Newport and District Flower Club send you the best of wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Sandra Honour
Email: sandra@thewesleys.net



STANSTED HELPLINE

Sad Day for Helpline

Having assisted Stansted residents for 41 years we have, after much discussion and with great sadness, made the decision to close Helpline on 31st December. During the last two or three years, despite our best efforts, we have struggled to recruit enough volunteer drivers and call-handlers to replace ones that we have lost; it is an unfair burden on the small number remaining to continue the service. A huge thank you to all our lovely, dedicated and hard-working volunteers, past and present, for all their help during our 41 years; a few of them have been with us from day one.

Helping the mostly elderly members of our community over the years has nurtured friendships and been rewarding for us in so many other ways. We hope we have lightened up the lives of those we have helped as much as you have ours during Helpline's lifetime. Fortunately, there are other organisations offering help with transport: Uttlesford Community Travel tel 01371 875787 and East of England Patient Transport tel 0300 123 2295. We wish both our volunteers and the current users of Helpline our very best wishes for the future.

Stansted Helpline Committee

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI

At our 65th Anniversary meeting in October we welcomed Zoe Jasco who is a singer, actor, author and President of Digwell WI. Her grandfather was the real vicar of Grantchester; apparently he was just as handsome as the fictional vicars in the TV series! During WWII her grandmother was involved in the Women's Voluntary Services (WVS) supporting soldiers who were billeted nearby and who appreciated the comfort offered by the canteen. Zoe's grandmother stayed in touch with many of the soldiers after the war and kept all their letters, which prompted Zoe to research the WVS. She told us that Stella, Lady Reading, founded the WVS in 1938 to assist with civil defence tasks ahead of WWII. Volunteers helped in many roles including the evacuation of children, issuing gas masks, opening nurseries when women were called to work and distributing clothing. Zoe has written a book of fiction based on the WVS during the war. Afterwards it became the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and is now the Royal Voluntary Service. This group is found mostly in hospitals; their aim is to grow the nations volunteer community and run services to support health and well-being.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 11th December** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when we shall be entertained by Tony Tutton telling us *That'll be the Day*. The competition is a photo of the 1950s. Instead of a formal meeting in January, we are going to the Three Willows for our New Year's Dinner. Our February speaker is Amanda Sutherland telling us about *My Creative Journey*. The competition is a handmade item. We welcome visitors and new members, so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743549241

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Christmas is the time of year when most of us receive post with *real* stamps on the envelope. If you can spare a few minutes to cut out the stamps we would be delighted to relieve you of them! They will help to raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) along with foreign and old UK coins. Please place them in the box outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill along with the other items for recycling: original ink cartridges, mobile phones, iPads and tablets - maybe you will receive a new one for Christmas? 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 items could be placed in a paper or plastic bag or envelope, especially ink cartridges; please use a separate one for each category and do not mix items. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church; alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

As I write this there are 65 shopping days until Christmas, but by the time you read it there will be a lot less. There is even an app that you can download onto your phone or laptop that will do the countdown for you if you like that sort of thing! I wonder if you are organised in your planning of who gets what gift, or are you a last-minute person? My late mother-in-law bought most of her Christmas gifts in the January sales, and one year suggested I did the same in order to save money. The only trouble was I forgot where I had hidden said presents, and had to rebuy at the last minute; by the time I had found them, later the next year, the children had grown out of what I had bought! Christmas shopping can be stressful: the crowds, the jangling of cash tills, remembering to take your list with you, and not being able to find anything for that hard-to-buy-for uncle or nephew, not to mention the cost. Then there is the muzak of carols in shops which is supposed to get us in a festive mood, but can jar dreadfully, especially if you are grieving for a loved one who will not be there this Christmas. Sometimes it can all get a bit much.

Perhaps we ought to focus on the gift of love, not in terms of physical presents, but rather in physical *presence*, by being there for those who are lonely or picking up the phone to chat to those who are far away. Often this means far more than a card or a gift token. God gave us the greatest gift of love in the form of a vulnerable child, the baby Jesus who came into this world to show us how much we are loved by the Creator of the Universe. So this Advent, maybe take a bit of time to give thanks for the love of family and friends, go to a carol service, and above all, give thanks for *God with us, Emmanuel*. Every blessing.



Rev'd Gill Hulme
Stansted Free Church



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

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

Baptisms: By appointment



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.





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 December

7th 10.30am Len Ward - Gift Service
14th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
21st 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Carols
25th 10.30am Heather Gale - Christmas Day
28th 10.30am No service

Preachers for January

4th 10.30am Babs Ward
11th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
18th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Covenant Service
25th 10.30am Dave Morson

Harvest collection for Whitechapel

We received an amazing number of gifts of food, toiletries and clothing for Whitechapel Mission, which serves the homeless in London, as shown in the picture below.



In addition we also collected £100 in cash donations. A big thank you to everyone.



St John's Registers

There were no Register entries for October.

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.



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The highly amusing speaker at our October meeting was Brian Carline, who has entertained us on a number of occasions over the last few years with talks ranging from *Dolly Blue and Izal*, *Tripe and Trotters* and memories of growing up in a Lancashire town in the 1950s. This time his theme was gardening, and in a talk titled *Soil, Tears and Sweat* he regaled us with his experience of gardening over the years, illustrating his talk with a wide range of gardening tools, one of which was a dibber which he had made at school. During his talk he invited our members to identify their uses and give their official names. Prizes of fragrant pots of lavender were given to the knowledgeable green fingered ones amongst us. Brian's talk was followed by a lively question and answer session; he then judged our competition for a garden implement and we enjoyed our usual refreshments and well stocked raffle.

Our December meeting is for members only, but all are welcome to our meeting on **Wednesday 21st January** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. The speaker is to be confirmed. All that remains for me to do is wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



ALSA WOOD FARM
CHRISTMAS TREES
alsawoodfarm.co.uk

OPEN FROM
THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
Every day except Wednesday

★ **OPEN 9AM - 4PM** ★

FRESH, LOCALLY GROWN TREES
Choose and Cut, Ready Cut, Wreaths

Alsa Wood, off Alsa Street, Stansted CM24 8SX
alsawoodfarm@gmail.com





PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND LOVED ONES BY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE NOW

Book your free consultation today!

07703477710
INFO@TWESTATESERV.COM

- ✓ Will Writing
- ✓ Estate Planning
- ✓ LPA Assistance

Safe to do Business With
Code Compliant

Personal, Friendly and Professional Service



TWESTATESERV.INFO



RAINBOW
PRESCHOOL

The Peter Kirk Centre
St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
www.rainbowstansted.co.uk

We would love to welcome you and your children to our inclusive setting where children are truly at the heart of our practice

Places are available from the term after children turn 2 years-old through to rising 4s

We offer funded and non-funded hours with flexible sessions

Please call 01279 814242
Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net




MOWTIVATED
PROFESSIONAL & FRIENDLY
GARDEN SERVICES

Grass & Hedge Cutting • Fencing
Turfing & Grass Seeding
Ground maintenance contracts undertaken
Tree Surgery : All aspects of tree care
Power Washing : Patios, Decking & Drives

TOM COTTAM - 07834 785716 • 01279 850257



GARDEN MAINTENANCE

I am very experienced and have excellent plant knowledge

Small landscaping projects considered

References available Friendly service
Fully insured **Contact Scott for a free consultation**

Tel: 07968 121 016
Email: thesecretgardeneressex@gmail.com



GREENSCROFT FENCING REPAIRS AND REPLACEMENTS

Fencing Panels • Picket Fencing • Shaped Panels • Post and Rail Fencing • Screening Panels





All types of Fencing Repairs

Contact Tim on 07801 643632 Email: tim@greenscroftfencing.co.uk
www.greenscroftfencing.co.uk

BRAIN TRAINING

Stop coughing during a meal and get big benefits. Getting a coughing fit in the middle of a meal for no good reason is upsetting. It is easy to put it down to getting older. While one part of the problem is probably due to falling collagen levels, making skin thinner and easier to irritate, another part lies in weak swallowing muscles. Good news! Muscles can be strengthened. How? Chew your food to a pulp, then make sure your tongue pushes firmly up into the roof of the mouth to assist swallowing. Also, when drinking anything at all, again push the tongue up high to assist the swallowing action. This has several excellent benefits. You will find you have to chew your food to a mush, making it easier for the digestion to break it down into the tiny particles necessary for absorption.



This simple action will encourage a high resting tongue position, which encourages nasal breathing. It improves balance; stand on one leg and compare your balance with your tongue sitting low versus with it pushed fully up into the hard palate. Double chins are reduced with the whole tongue sitting high. Finally researchers found that this high tongue position made people 30% stronger in the gym. A high tongue covers all of the hard palate, not just the front part. Never mind, bottoms up, tongues up and Happy Christmas!

Clare Harding
Flexible Strength Manuden
Tel: 07802 872919

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the October draw:

£100	No 60	Karen Coulthard
£ 50	No 158	Doreen Heals
£ 25	No 26	Frank Skingle

The next two draws will take place after the 9.30am service on Sundays **28th December** and **25th January** in St John's Church. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to anyone who may wish to join 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: 819062
Email: jean733@btinternet.com

CREATIVE WRITERS COME OUT AGAIN!

Building on the success of their last one, members of the Stansted Mountfitchet Creative Writing Group are pleased and proud to announce the publication of their second anthology. *Leaving The Ordinary World* is a vibrant new collection of more short stories inviting readers into a world where the ordinary becomes extraordinary. Each tale offers a fresh adventure ranging from enigmatic to playful, mysterious to heartwarming, ensuring surprises at every turn. This book will delight, entertain and linger in the mind long after the final page.

If you love reading, like a good story but lack the time or inclination for a full-length novel, *Leaving The Ordinary World* fits the bill perfectly. An ideal Christmas gift for any book lover. For more details and how to obtain a copy, please email us; you will be very glad you did.

Stansted Mountfitchet Creative Writing Group
Email: stanstedcreativewritinggroup@gmail.com



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

We are delighted to be hosting the exciting young woodwind quintet, *Lumas Winds*; the concert will be held on **Sunday 25th January** at 3.00pm in St John's Church. The group, comprising flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn, first came together as members of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, and have since been appointed as Britten Pears Young Artists, Tunnell Trust Young Artists and participants in the Countess of Munster Recital Scheme, which is supporting their concert in Stansted. They have appeared at London's Wigmore Hall and King's Place and other venues up and down the country. In 2023 they won the Mixed Ensemble Prize of the prestigious Royal Overseas League competition. *Lumas Winds* have been described as *an effervescent wind quintet, lively in their performance style and enterprising in their choice of repertoire*.



Tickets for the concert are: adults £18, over 65s and students £15, under-21s and season-ticket holders free, and are available on the door. Drinks will be available in the interval as usual. Do take the opportunity to come and hear not one, not two but five rising stars playing for us live in Stansted!

Richard Allaway
Tel: 814118



THE COCK INN HENHAM

Nr Bishop's Stortford
Herts CM22 6AN

Tel - 01279 850347
email - bookings@thecockinnhenham.co.uk
www.thecockinnhenham.co.uk



OPENING HOURS:

Sunday - 12pm to 7pm. Monday & Tuesday - closed
Wednesday to Saturday - 12pm to 10pm.

FOOD SERVED:

Wednesday to Saturday - 12pm to 2pm & 6pm to 9pm.
Sunday - 12pm to 4pm.

Taylor Computer Services (Stansted)

On-site Computer Maintenance/Repairs for Home or Business

DON'T BE RESTRICTED TO OFFICE HOURS, I CAN VISIT
YOUR HOME OR OFFICE DURING THE DAY, EVENINGS
OR WEEKENDS AT A TIME TO SUIT YOU.

Wireless Networking and Broadband Setup, Data Transfers,
Hardware & Software Installation, Virus & Spyware Removal &
Protection, New PC Setup & Training

Call Derrick on 01279 816418 ~ 07926 289749
Email: deltaylor61@btinternet.com



MCM Computer Services

Computer Services for homes and businesses

- Computer Repairs & Upgrades
- Networking & Internet
- Virus & Spyware removal
- Website Design

- On site repairs - £40 first hr, £20 per hr thereafter
- No Fix - No Fee
- Fixed price on collection and return repairs

www.mcmcomputerservices.co.uk
mark@mcmcomputerservices.co.uk

For a friendly, and reliable
service call Mark on
07815 011925
01279 897243



SDS INSTALLATIONS LTD

Aerial and Satellite Services

Foreign Satellite Systems - CCTV - Extra TV Points
Sky Link Ups - Phone Points - Home Signal Distribution
Wall Mounted Plasma / LCD Screens
Cables Supplied and Hidden

Alan Smith 07771 881 042
50 Sunnyside sdsinstallations@hotmail.com
Stansted CM24 8AX www.sdsinstallations.co.uk

COOK UPHOLSTERY

www.taylorandcookltd.co.uk

Don't Replace It ... Re-cover It !

Any Item Reupholstered

Sofas • Armchairs • Headboards • Divans • Kitchen Chairs • Ottomans

Create a beautiful **Padded Feature Wall** in your lounge or bedroom

Large choice of fabrics and designs

Call Gary on 07787 518022 Email: garycook99@btinternet.com
Text or email a picture for an immediate quote



DC Alarm Systems

Intruder, Access, C.C.T.V
& Fire Alarm Systems

Local family business Est. 1984
All intruder systems guaranteed for two years

Call Grant on 07775 673273

Telephone: 01279 494 596
Email: dcalarmsystems76@gmail.com



Looking for a Private/ NHS Dentist?

Castle Dental is taking **Private|Denplan|NHS Patients** (subject to availability)

Hygienist services, cosmetic and implant surgery

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm

Private Saturday and late evening appointments available

Tel. 01279 815166

Castle Dental, Castle Maltings, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8XG

ARE YOUR LOCKS BEHAVING BADLY?

A Local Trusted Family Business Since 1989

- Specialist in UPVC & Wooden Doors
- No Call Out Charge
- All Work Fully Guaranteed
- No Fix No Fee
- 10% Senior Citizen Discount

Christopher
LOCKSMITH



For More Advice & Help Call Christopher: 07772 111 222

www.christopherthelocksmith.co.uk



FREE NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance Service

2nd Monday of each month 10 am - noon
at Touchpoint, Crafton Green **by appointment only**

- Have your NHS hearing aid cleaned & re-tubed
- Receive help and advice

www.hearinghelpessex.org.uk Tel 01245 496347

Registered Charity 1113498 Company Limited by Guarantee Registered no 5664873

STANSTED VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER

As usual there was a good turnout, and a great time was had by all. Our tasty chip supper was supplied by Churchills, followed by satsumas and chocolates kindly donated by the Co-op and Tesco. Helen, Ann and others worked hard setting up the tables which looked very attractive. After supper there was the customary entertainment provided by all the churches - some serious and some hilarious. A few of the highlights are below.



Kathy and Liz, accompanied by Anne, sang a lovely arrangement of *The Rose*



Fran had us all singing *The Wheel Barrow Song*. It was hilarious!



Autumn poems sensitively read by Aileen



A video and story of poor Septimus from Babs and Len



Some familiar 60s numbers from Kathy and Dave



Sheila and Anne entertained us with *Returning Home* by John Barry



St John's Choir's contribution included: *All in the April Evening* and *The Muckspreaders' Song*

The supper is for everyone, not just those connected with the churches, and it was good to see both new and familiar faces. We managed to price the tickets just right so that we broke even. Many thanks to everyone who made it such a success. See you there next year!

Marion Dyer
On behalf of Churches Together in Stansted

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

With some good news on Manor Road flats, a change in focus to biodiversity in the village, seating improvements, a report on this year's Remembrance Service, and an opportunity to share your views on possible play equipment on the Recreation Ground

Manor Road Flats update

Meetings lead to key commitments from Uttlesford officials

It has been a year since the Parish Council urged Uttlesford District Council to act on the poor condition of the Manor Road flats in Stansted. At that time, we invited Cllr Arthur Coote, portfolio holder for housing, to discuss residents' concerns about damp, faulty electrics, leaking roofs, unsafe balconies and other repair.

In October, Parish Council Chair Maureen Caton and two District Councillors met with Cllr Coote and Brian Burton, Uttlesford's interim director of property. This positive tone at this meeting led to a follow-up one being arranged by the Parish Council between Mr Burton, three district council officials and residents. At that meeting, residents heard directly why repairs had been delayed and learned about plans for improvements.



Residents heard directly why repairs had been delayed and learned about plans for improvements

Two commitments

The District Council made two key commitments to residents:

- To conduct a survey identifying outstanding repair work
- To assign a council officer to inspect completed work

Another positive outcome was an invitation for a Manor Road resident to be co-opted onto the District Council's housing board, which one resident is currently considering.

The Parish Council will continue working with residents and UDC housing officers to improve living conditions at the Uttlesford-managed Manor Road properties

Resting places for weary legs

Ever thought of donating a bench to the village?



With the installation of a new bench at Burnell's Way in November —kindly funded by a resident in memory of a loved one—there are now three more resting places around the village to sit and watch the world go by! At the Chapel Hill bus stop we have added a "seating perch" and beneath the oak tree near the Recreation Ground play area we have undertaken substantial repairs to the bench. The latter two were funded by the Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, using £1,500 from its reserve funds. There may be a fourth on its way should Affinity Water follow through on their commitment to re-instate the bench opposite the Dog & Duck, removed over 12 months ago as part of their maintenance work in the area.

The Parish Council often receives offers from residents wishing to donate a bench, plaque, or tree to commemorate someone special. The Council oversees the supply, installation and maintenance of all such gifts to ensure quality and consistency across village sites. Donors cover the installation cost and a small maintenance contribution. In the case of benches, once installed, SMPC ensures the upkeep for ten years.

To learn more about how to donate a memorial gift such as a bench, please read our **Memorial Trees Benches Plaque Policy** on our website:

stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/documents/memorial-trees-benches-plaque-policy

Search for biodiversity site

Consultation follows switch to larger, but less re-wilding areas

The Parish Council in November undertook a two-week consultation with the community to get its views on a possible biodiversity site along the grass verge on Forest Hall Road near Bentley Drive.



The potential new biodiversity site off Forest Hall Road

In 2021 the Council joined other local authorities, businesses and organisations across the UK in declaring a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency. Since then, SMPC has been finding ways to support plant and animal habitats locally. So far, the Council has overseen the planting of over 100 trees and created wildflower areas to attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies and to enhance green spaces for people to enjoy.

The importance of this work is clear. The UK has lost nearly 97 percent of its wildflower meadows since the 1930s, reducing habitats for insects, birds, and small mammals. Pollinators are vital for food production and protecting them helps maintain crop yields and a sustainable food supply.

The Parish Council has already trialled two smaller wildflower sites in the village. In 2024 wild grasses were sown at the verges where Rainsford Road meets Pennington Lane. These have produced a vibrant display of wildgrasses and native meadow flowers that attracted wildlife.

Wildflowers were also sown on land in front of the Knight sign at the B1383 roundabout. This site has struggled to establish and will return to regular grass cutting.

Based on these lessons, councillors are now focusing on larger sites, which can provide a greater ecological benefit and create true wildflower meadows. As part of this

review the Open Spaces committee decided to survey the community to find out its views on establishing a wildflower meadow on the verge fronting Forest Hall Park road, next to Bentley Drive.

Residents' feedback from the consultation results will inform the Committee's final decision, which will be published in the next edition of *The Link*. If this project goes ahead, grant funding will be sought from Uttlesford District and Essex County Councils.

Councillors go on patrol

Patrols provide a chance for residents to share intelligence



PCSO Stewart with Cllrs Kavanagh and Gardner

Stansted PCSO Alex Stewart recently joined Parish Councillors Jamie Gardner and Jo Kavanagh for a community patrol, starting at the Mountfitchet Exchange and continuing through Foresthall Park. This patrol marked the beginning of a new

initiative where councillors and residents are invited to join PCSO Stewart on monthly patrols. These walks offer a valuable opportunity to raise local concerns directly with the police and highlight areas that may need attention.

The first patrol proved particularly insightful with residents voicing concerns about suspected drug activity in the area.

PCSO Stewart, whose role is partly funded by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, was able to offer guidance on how to report such issues, whilst residents shared information that will be used by the police to build a clearer picture of what's happening locally. If you'd like to join a future patrol, the next opportunity to do so is on **Thursday, 18 December.**

Meet at noon outside the Mountfitchet Exchange (72 Chapel Hill). Please note, police community engagement events are dependent on operational requirements on the day. As such, they can be subject to last-minute cancellation.



Remembrance Service 2025

Between 250-300 people attended the village's Remembrance Service on Sunday, 9 November. Nearly 30 wreaths were laid at the war memorial in the Memorial Gardens, with representatives from our many and varied village organisations, and officials from the County and District Councils paying their respects. A short closure of Chapel Hill to traffic meant that the observance of a minute's silence passed without significant disruption. The Parish Council would like to thank all those who turned out and helped to make the occasion special — including the troops from Carver Barracks who led the parade down Chapel Hill, and Rev. Helen Flack for taking the service.



Shortlist for treehouse replacement

Let us know your views on outdoor play kit options

Parish Councillors and the SMPC's Projects Officer have been meeting play equipment providers to choose a replacement for the treehouse which was dismantled at the Recreation Ground. At the top of the shortlist are two designs from play company Broxap, both aimed at children aged 11 to 14. These feature a mix of climbing and fitness elements suited to older children and would fit well on the site, though safety matting could be required. Also being considered is individual outdoor gym equipment, for those aged over 14. Before making a final decision, Councillors would like to hear from residents. Please email your feedback or comment on our social media posts about the project (see page 23 for contact details). The Parish Council will also be seeking input from the Youth Club, Year 6 pupils, and Forest Hall School students. The outcome of the consultation will appear in the February edition of *The Link*.

OPTION 1: Individual Outdoor Gym Bundle



Includes: 8 workout fitness stations
Armbike (1 user station)
Stepper (2 user stations)
Legpress (2 user stations)
Lat Pull/Chest Press (2 user stations)
Body Twist (3 user stations)
Cross Rider (1 user station)
Airwalker (1 user station)
Skier (2 user stations)

For users 14+

£14,495

includes cost of equipment, installation, fencing & matting

OPTION 2: Outdoor Fitness Rig



For users 11-14

£16,060

includes cost of equipment & installation

To be used by up to **15 people** at any time

Size: 6m x 4.5m footprint

Includes: 1 x Power Push, 2 x Pull Down Challengers
1 x Squat Push, 1 x Chin/Pull Up Handles
1 x Arched Ladder, 1 x Trapeze Rings
1 x Standard Ladder, 1 x Offset Ladder
1 x Vertical Ladder, 1 x Pull Up Rings

OPTION 3: Sthenos Outdoor Fitness Rig



For users 11-14

£9,979

includes cost of equipment, installation and matting

Size: 4.5m x 4.5m footprint

Includes: 1 x Parallel Rails, 1 x Pull Down Challenger
1 x Squat Push, 1 x Chin/Pull Up Handle
1 x Leg Raise, 1 x Trapeze Rings
1 x Standard Ladder, 1 x Offset Ladder
1 x Vertical Ladder, 1 x Stretch Assist

End of an era

Stansted Helpline to close after 40 years of service

In October, Stansted Helpline announced it will close at the end of December. The local charity has helped countless residents get to hospital appointments, collect prescriptions, and do their shopping, since opening in 1984. The service, run by 20–30 dedicated volunteers, is ending due to a shortage of helpers.

Parish Council Chair Maureen Caton said: "This is such sad news after such a long history of excellent help and support. Unfortunately, the decline in volunteer availability is an increasing challenge for many voluntary organisations." There is some comfort for those who depend on the service. Uttlesford Community Travel (UCT), which provides similar transport support, has offered to assist both Stansted Helpline's users and volunteers.

UCT General Manager Mick Bott said: "We are always here if someone needs ongoing support. They can call us and receive the same friendly response they're used to. And if any volunteers would like to join us, please get in touch for a chat about our work."

Based in Dunmow, UCT operates 28 cars and 6 minibuses across 54 parishes in Uttlesford, including Stansted Mountfichet. This year SMPC awarded the charity a £2,500 grant to help it get local residents to hospitals, doctors' surgeries, and social events.

To book a ride or learn more, contact UCT on 01371 875787, 01799 519008, or 01245 279052.

Alternatively email info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org



The Parish Council

will close from Monday, 22nd December
and reopen on Monday, 5th January.

Contact our Parish Councillors for assistance
should you need to reach SMPC during this time.

Their details are listed on the opposite page

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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

An answer phone service takes messages after 2pm Monday to Friday and during 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)

Parish Councillors

Ryan ACKERMAN | ☎ 07557677995

ryanackerman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Alan BARNES | ☎ 817214

alanbarnes@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

George BRAECKMAN | ☎ 07981203831

georgebraeckman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Maureen CATON | ☎ 813914

Chair of SMPC

maureenclaton@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Jamie GARDNER | ☎ 07956255334

jamiegardner@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Sophie GEE

sophiegee@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Anne GUNEY | ☎ 815996

anneguney@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

James HARDY | ☎ 07809598393

jameshardy@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Joanna KAVANAGH | ☎ 815157

jokavanagh@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Ayub KHAN | ☎ 815800

Vice Chair of SMPC

ayubkhan@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Allan LOVE | ☎ 817620

allanlove@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

John O'BRIEN | ☎ 816772

johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL | ☎ 815925

cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are on Wednesdays from 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. A full agenda virtually using Zoom (log on details are published with the agendas on our website):

3rd December Windmill Sub-committee (7pm)

3rd December Finance & General Purposes

10th December Full Council

7th January Finance & General Purposes

14th January Full Council

21st January Open Spaces

Uttlesford District Councillors

Alan DEAN

☎ 813579 email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL

☎ 815925 email: cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: cllrgooding@uttlesford.gov.uk

Nick CHURCH

email: cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Councillor

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk

Member Of Parliament

Kemi BADENOCH MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA ☎ 0207 219 1943 email:

kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

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

1st December — 11am-noon TouchPoint (Memory Lane Cafe)

4th December — 5-6pm Co-Op, Lower Street

4th December — 6.10-7pm Mountfitchet Library

8th December — 10am-noon TouchPoint (Memory Lane Cafe)

11th December — 5-6pm Co-Op, Lower Street

11th December — 6.10-7pm Mountfitchet Library

18th December — 11am-noon TouchPoint

5th January — 11am-noon TouchPoint (Memory Lane Cafe)

8th January — 5-6pm Co-Op, Lower Street

8th January — 6.10-7pm Mountfitchet Library

15th January — 10am-noon TouchPoint

22nd January — 10am-noon TouchPoint

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 9.30am-3pm, 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, December 11th** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with problems with benefits, housing, and addictions.

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; Cra on Green

Thursdays 10am-5pm, **Fridays** 1-2pm and **Saturdays** 10-11am

Community Cafe Thursdays 10am-5pm, **Fridays** 8.30am-noon

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 refuse truck will return to the Lower Street car park in the spring of 2026.

Locations

Defibrillators marked yellow are available 24/7, while those in orange can only be accessed during working hours.

To use a defibrillator:

1. Call 999 for an access code.
2. Expose the chest and attach the pads.
3. Follow the device's spoken instructions — stand clear if it delivers a shock.
4. Continue CPR until the person recovers or help arrives



Visit our Stove Shop in Takeley

Woodburners, Multifuel and Gas Stoves
Cooking Ranges & Pizza Ovens
Expert HETAS Installers and Free Home Surveys

OrionHeating.co.uk

01279 813591 Takeley Business Centre, Dunmow Road, CM22 6SJ



CK Electrical Installations

www.ckelectrical.uk

- All installations from light fittings to full re-wiring
- Full or Partial Domestic Electrical Inspections
- Garden Lighting and CCTV Installations
- All work certified for Building Regulations

Call Chris 07597 974945 or 01279 814333

E-mail: ckelectricaluk@gmail.com



JONES & CO



Plumbing and Heating Engineers
Installation and Maintenance
Boiler and Cylinder Replacements
Bathrooms ~ Gas and Oil Services

Please contact David Jones

Tel: 01279 815877 Mob: 07860 213760

Email: davejones097@gmail.com



J DAY & SON

CRAFTSMEN IN FINE STONE

We have a wide range of stylish and elegant memorials and headstones to choose from; alternatively we can design and craft bespoke options if you have seen one you like elsewhere

For a brochure and prices or home visit call us

Unit 3, Twyford Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3LJ

Tel 01279 654555 www.jdayandson.co.uk



**P.Knight
Plumbing**



Local, reliable and friendly plumber

All small and large jobs undertaken

Phillip Knight 07961 236066

Email: phillipknight600@yahoo.co.uk

FLEXIBLE STRENGTH

@MANUDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY 09:15

TUESDAY 13:30

Neuroscience Meets Movement
07802 872919

GO-JO Quality Cleaning

Domestic & Office
Cleaning

Jo Freeman
28 Years' Experience

01799 543066

07828 425944

j.freeman195@yahoo.com



RAY on the HILL

• Painting • Decorating • Gardening • General Maintenance

ray@rayonthehill.co.uk
Mob: 07790 509556
Tel: 01279 851831



Do-It-4U

**Repair, Care & Maintenance
for your Home and Garden**

- ◆ Plumbing, Electrical & Carpentry Services
- ◆ Drain Blockages Cleared
- ◆ Gardens Tidied & Maintained
- ◆ Hedges & Topiary Trimmed & Shaped
- ◆ Fences Erected & Repaired
- ◆ Sheds & Other Sectional Buildings Erected

Tel 01279 814411 Mobile 07774 877320



**DPS Handyman
Services**

Local friendly handyman
Reasonable rates
References available



Tel: Simon - 07970 905360



CHRISTMAS, WINTER AND MUSIC QUIZ

A reminder of our Winter, Christmas and Music quiz on **Saturday 6th December** 7.00pm for 7.30pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre. Proceeds will go towards the maintenance of the Parish Centre. Tickets: £5, or £15 with a fish and chips order from Churchills. Please contact me to let me know whether you would like a fish dinner or not; then I will give you information about paying for tickets.

David Morson
Email: davidmorson20@gmail.com

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

December always whizzes away from us at the gardens; we hope to be tree planting and clearing out beds ready for spring planting, before we hang up our tools for the Christmas season. After this year's drought, we hope that we will get lots of rain this month. It has been a fantastic mast autumn, with so many acorns and other tree litter to crunch through as you walk around. The fungi have enjoyed the conditions too. They are often still bursting through in December, bringing a different colour palette. Last year it was the bright yellow Witch's Butter (*Tremella mesenterica*) which made us stop and stare. It is parasitic, feeding on the wood-rotting fungi of the *Peniophora* genus. Legends say it grows on gates and doors of homes, when a witch has cast a spell on the family!



So how has the year been at the gardens? In a word, it has been rewarding. We have had lovely feedback from visitors, including some on a Shakespeare tour from the Netherlands, as well as school groups. We were particularly delighted that a local school walked their children to the gardens to learn about local world war history, and we have had record numbers of children enjoying the gardens and activities on our Open Sundays. Next year the gardens will be open as usual for snowdrops in February; from April till October we will be open on Thursdays and one Sunday a month. The dates will be on our website from the end of the year. If you wish to arrange for a group visit or a talk, please contact us through the website or as below.

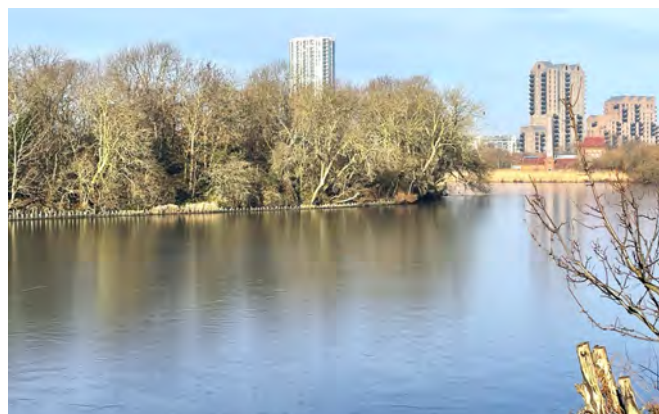
Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01371 876979
Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk



RSPB

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

On **Tuesday 9th December** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA we welcome the return of André Farrar who will be telling us about *Saving Special Places*. This is the story of areas and people who are helping wildlife to survive and thrive despite habitat loss. On **Sunday December 14th** at 10.00am we are visiting the RSPB reserve at Rye Meads, Hoddesdon SG12 8JS. The future of this outstanding reserve has been extremely uncertain for the last year and remains so. Please check opening hours nearer the time. One of our walks is on **Wednesday 17th December** at 10.00am and we are meeting at Albury Village Hall, The Bourne, Albury SG11 2JD. We plan to retire to the pub for a festive lunch so this walk has to be booked in advance using the contact details below.



On **Tuesday 7th January** at 10.00am our walk starts at Hadham Ford, opposite the Nags Head, Little Hadham SG11 2AX. For our monthly meeting on **Tuesday 13th January** at 7.30pm we welcome Santiago Cárdenas from the British Trust for Ornithology who will be telling us about their Garden Birdwatch and other projects. On **Monday 26th January** at 10.00am we plan to visit Walthamstow Wetlands at London Wildlife Trust, 2 Forest Road, London N17 9NH. This is an internationally important nature reserve with the ten reservoirs offering a haven for overwintering wildfowl; see photo above. For further details, please see our website.

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

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 2nd December** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck where we will be discussing *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. We will also be holding our Christmas book swap where we all take along a festively wrapped book that we have enjoyed, and then we each pick one to take away and read. We will discuss our new books at the January meeting which will be on **Tuesday 6th January**, same time and venue. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us, a warm welcome will await.



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



Join us for
our next
event

care UK

Mountfitchet House care home,
Stansted

Fish and chip Friday

Second Friday of each month, at 1pm

A wonderful opportunity for individuals who are 65 and over to make friends and enjoy a delicious dementia friendly fish and chips meal, prepared by our Head Chef.

Trusted to care.



To attend please call **01279 743 348**
or email susan.whitaker@careuk.com

AgeCare
Care Homes

Hargrave House

Make yourself at home

Residential Care | Respite Care | Dementia Care

Situated in the charming, picturesque village of Stansted Mountfitchet, Hargrave House is an exceptional residential and dementia care home offering compassionate care on a long and short term basis.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 24-hour staffing and emergency call facilities | Delicious and varied meals, freshly prepared on site |
| Specialist dementia care wing | Extensive programme of activities |
| Passionate and experienced team | A choice of communal areas including a television lounge |
| Long term and respite stay residence | Personal laundry service |
| Beautiful landscaped gardens | On site hairdressing, chiropody and optician visits |



We would love to talk to you...

- 103 Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet, CM24 8BY
- 01279 817 272
- HargraveHouse@agecare.uk.com
- agecare.uk.com

Join us online



JOIN OUR TEAM

- We are a small, family-run care company seeking friendly, caring and reliable individuals to join our expanding team.
- Our aim is to make a real difference to the lives of our clients.
- If you are looking for a truly rewarding career working with the elderly, get in touch via email or phone.
- No experience needed, as full training is provided.
- Full-time or part-time hours available



PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND SUPPORT
TO LIVE YOUR LIFE, YOUR WAY.

Sierra HomeCare
Personal • Caring • Responsive



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Sierra Homecare

HAS BEEN RECOGNISED AS A

Top 20 Rated
Home Care Provider in
East of England

homecare.co.uk

Sierra Homecare is a family run, independent quality home care provider.

Providing a comprehensive range of support services to older people in their own homes, within Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Stansted and surrounding areas.

Sierra Homecare
01279 501678
www.sierrahomecare.co.uk





STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

For our November meeting we welcomed Dr Chris Connell, who gave a presentation on *The Good Schools Guide in 19th Century Bishop's Stortford*. Formal education there had actually started far earlier when the Grammar School was founded in around 1573, but the National Schools and British Schools of the early 19th century provided near-universal education provision. Religious influences came from the Congregational and nonconformist churches and the Church of England. A National School opened in 1818 in South Street for boys only, although in 1872 a school for all children opened on what is now the Apton Road car park, with fundraising from Rev'ds Rhodes and Menet. A school was founded at Northgate End in 1839 providing access to education for children of the *labouring classes*. New Town Infants School at Holy Trinity in South Street opened in 1852. The original Bishop's Stortford High School was opened in 1850 on the corner of Church Street and High Street; the name was changed to the Grammar School in 1895, and it was finally closed in 1930. The Bishop's Stortford High School in London Road was built in 1950.

The Proprietary School was founded in 1850 for *the sons of the upper and middle classes of this town*. It was renamed Bishop's Stortford College in 1901. The British School in Stansted opened in 1862 at the bottom of Chapel Hill, supported by the nonconformist and Congregational churches. The Education Act of 1870 provided education for all children, but league tables for attendance existed even then! Our thanks to Dr Connell for such an interesting talk, which struck a particular chord with many members who had attended schools in Bishop's Stortford. Our next meeting on **Thursday 4th December** at 7.30pm in TouchPoint is our Christmas Quiz *Mulled Wine and Mince Pies* hosted by Roger Barrett. There is no January meeting.

Keith Parslow

Email: keithparslow0910@gmail.com



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with us, we are a social club for adults with a learning disability which meets on the third Thursday of the month, usually in St John's Hall, for a range of fun activities to bring people together.

Thank you to the Stansted Pubs Cricket Match whose tournament in the summer raised a fantastic sum for both the Club and TouchPoint. We were delighted to attend a cheque presentation recently with the village pubs involved. We are so grateful to everyone who helped support the event. At our recent get togethers, there were some great costumes on display for our Hallowe'en disco and a competitive element to our trip to Ace of Lanes in Bishop's Stortford. Our carol concert will be held on **Thursday 11th December** at 7.00pm in St John's Church and is open to all, so please do feel free to join us. New members are always welcome to come along and see what we are all about; please get in touch to check the details of the next session. New volunteers to help us put on the activities and help transport members to and from the sessions are always very welcome too.

Ellen Brooks

Tel: 07880 896516

Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk



www.theharmonaireschoir.com

Candlelight carols

The Harmonaires Choir is back on **Saturday 13th December** at 4.30pm in St John's Church for a Christmas concert featuring music by Rutter, Park and Todd, together with all your seasonal favourites. It will also include well-loved carols for the audience to sing along to. Tickets: adults £5, children free, available via our website or on the door.



There will be a retiring collection for CRISIS, particularly known for their *Crisis at Christmas* campaign but also a charity committed to helping people out of homelessness all year round. Your generous contributions will help provide vital services and support for those in need.

Liz Jennings

Email: jenningselizabeth4@gmail.com

GUESS THE OBJECT 4 ANSWER

Thank you to all those readers who sent in their ideas about these Victorian objects shown below, which are owned by Tony Wellings.



Well done to Rosina Down, Sarah Ludlow-Elston and Jenny Whitting who all identified that they are button hooks, formerly used for doing up small buttons on shoes or boots and possibly garments. The one shown at the top is a foldable one which ladies could take out with them. Look out for more unusual objects in future editions of The Link.

IN THE GARDEN

A heatwave might lead to fantasies of picking a ripe lemon from your own beautiful, fragrant tree on a summer evening but they are far from effortless to grow! Citrus trees are native to tropical and subtropical regions and are frost-sensitive in colder climates. They are fussy and greedy; incorrect soil, humidity, watering or feeding can create a sickly tree with dying leaves and no fruit. The container compost must be acidic, gritty and free draining so that the roots can absorb nutrients essential for healthy leaf, bud and fruit development. Alkaline soil, multipurpose compost and tap water are unsuitable for citrus. Always use rainwater or, in drought, tap water after 2-3 days in a bucket. For most citruses the ideal UK winter temperature range is 7-15°C, making a centrally heated environment too warm and dry. A cool conservatory, polytunnel or unheated greenhouse is ideal for overwintering. Being ever-green, citrus trees still need sunlight and a little moisture over winter; gradually increase watering, ventilation and humidity as the days lengthen in springtime.



After the last frosts, move your tree outside to a sheltered sunny spot; remove winter damage and thin out. Water thoroughly when the top 5cm of compost is dry, adding a weekly citrus feed. Standing the pot on a shallow saucer with gravel can aid drainage; misting the foliage in heatwaves helps with bud and fruit setting. Citrus trees produce new leaves, buds, flowers and fruit simultaneously; the fruits slowly swell over winter and ripen the following year, just in time for the first Pimm's. It is a good idea to buy varieties grafted onto dwarfing rootstock to prevent them from outgrowing their winter environment or become too difficult to move. The easiest citrus trees to grow in the UK are Eureka (sharper) and Meyer (sweeter) lemons, Bearss and Finger limes, Yuzu and Calamondin oranges.

Sian Lloyd
u3a Garden Group

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Baron Hardup 2 Blue 3 Jingle Bells
- 4 Widow Twanky 5 Tangerine
- 6 Donner and Blitzen 7 St Stephen
- 8 Aladdin 9 Ebenezer 10 Babes in the Wood



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Society is not a church or religious organisation; however we encourage visits to churches because they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Most of our churches are open regularly and welcome visitors. Our website has many short articles, including some about various features of churches including bells, clocks, memorials, poppyheads, spires, towers and windows. We recently added an article about church fonts, some of which are described in the next few paragraphs. Fonts hold holy water which is used to baptize people, an initiation into the Christian faith. They are often situated near the church entrance. Our local churches have a great variety of fonts, usually made of stone. For example ...



St George's church Anstey, pictured above, has an 11th century font which is rare in that it is decorated with mermen holding their tails. Thorley church has a 12th century font. It was removed from the church and for many years was used as a drinking trough on a nearby farm before being reintroduced into the church in 1855. Its ornate cover was designed by George Gilbert Scott, a prolific architect known mainly for his work designing and renovating churches and cathedrals. Chickney church has a carved stone font from the 14th century. The bowl is lavishly decorated including shields bearing the coats of arms of local Braybrook and Fitzwalter families. Debden's 18th century font is made of Coade stone and is richly decorated with roses and heraldry.

Over the last couple of years, I have been giving a talk entitled *A peek inside some Hundred Parishes churches* to local groups. The talk is a PowerPoint presentation with many photos. If your group might be interested, please contact me.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com





SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

Local darts prodigy Mason Teese is climbing the ladder to stardom and won the Latvian Open in Riga with a 170 check-out. We continue to sponsor Mason, and he is looking for further sponsorship to achieve his goal of being world champion.



After the success of our Christmas market last year we are holding another one on **Saturday 6th December** noon-5.00pm. If you would like to host a stall please call Claire on 07791 058406 to book your place. We will be at the annual Club Awards in Leicester and hope to come back with the Entertainment Club of the Year award for the fourth consecutive year. This will be an incredible achievement.

We have a fabulous schedule lined up for December and January. We start on **Saturday 6th December** with a *Cher* tribute and **Friday 12th** sees the return of Martin from *Cloud 9* for an evening of Karaoke. **Saturday 13th** we welcome *Back to the 80s* for a night of your favourite classics. **Friday 19th** we welcome back *Deutschefabrik*. Back by popular demand on **Saturday 20th** is our *Robbie Williams* tribute. On **Sunday 21st** we welcome *Jimmy James*, followed by *Chloe Loader Country* and a *Jumble of Chords* on **Tuesday 23rd** at 1.00pm. We host a *Michael Bublé* tribute on **Saturday 27th** and round off 2025 with *Scam 69* on New Years Eve, **Wednesday 31st**. We are delighted to report that *Deutschefabrik* are donating their fee to Touchpoint for children at Christmas, and we will also be contributing.

We kick off the new year on **Saturday 10th January** with John Searle spinning the disks. **Saturday 17th** sees *The Sound Injectors*, followed by *Parallel Covers* on **Saturday 24th**. We round off January on **Saturday 31st** with *The Bonnet*. We would like to wish you a peaceful Christmas and New Year.



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



Local volunteers landed safely!

The groundwork for next year begins in earnest around this time of year, and our volunteers were delighted to get some extra help recently from a group in the London Stansted Airport Commercial Marketing Department. It was a session arranged by Uttlesford Community Action Network (UCAN) whose volunteering programme helps local charities.

The team joined us for an afternoon of green fingered chores and fun. They were very enthusiastic and got stuck into some autumn jobs, including aligning areas in the fruit cage for specific varieties, clearing the horseradish bed for next year and turning over the compost.



Uppercut Trees kindly donated a huge pile of bark chip-pings; the whole team joined in and declared they would not leave until all the paths were layered up. The bark chip-pings really work well fighting our old friends the weeds.

The team's assistance was much appreciated, and as a thank you gift, they departed with a new Human Roots branded tote bag, filled with freshly picked produce. Their comments were very complimentary, and they seemed to really enjoy the afternoon. We hope they can return in the spring to assist with our planting.

We have been busy saving tomato seeds from the summer flowering and fingers crossed we will replicate this year's bounty. Whilst there are still chores to do and the weather is dry and not too cold, we are meeting up regularly with a final push in preparation for overwintering the plot by early December. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in joining us, please email: cathymizzard@gmail.com.



Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer



www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

The Kitson Trophy, a one-day mixed doubles tournament, held on Sunday 1st October, concluded with a decisive victory for Marta Hensall and Austin Sewell, who beat Clare Murfitt and Rick Lim. Felicity Rowe and Patrick Rogers were the winners of a close consolation final against Kate Hucknall and Andrew Arnold. All the matches were played in great spirit despite very windy conditions. In the Essex Small Clubs league, Stansted entered five teams and three of them have topped their divisions this summer! Many congratulations to our Mixed Division 2, Ladies' Division 2 and Men's Division 2 for their wins. This is a great achievement for a small club.



Coaching

Junior and adult group coaching sessions are underway. Please contact Dan email: danw.tennis@gmail.com or Phil email: phil_tennis@outlook.com for more details. Please see our website for information on tournaments, league matches, social events and lots more. New members are always welcome.

Fiona Kelly
Club Secretary

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club

The England Women cricketers reached the semi-final of the World Cup in India. They were knocked out by South Africa whom they had defeated by 10 wickets earlier in the competition! Funny old game as they say. The men's team now travel to Australia for the Ashes Series. Five test matches which started at Perth on 21st November, and we do have a chance of bringing the urn back home. It should be a really exciting series and one that will enhance the enthusiasm for cricket in this country.

The Club continues to be busy during the winter months, arranging nets, fixtures for next season, accounts for AGMs and all of those little things that make the Club turn over smoothly. Our General Knowledge quiz will be held on **Saturday 31st January** and indoor nets for both seniors and juniors will begin mid-February. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a very healthy New Year.



David Brown

Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663

Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The festive and new year period always brings plenty of competitive football matches for all our teams and this season is no exception for the first team, now competing in the Thurlow Nunn South League. Although there is no local home derby game against Saffron Walden, our Christmas fixture is an away game at Enfield Borough on **Saturday 27th December**. With the division being tight and competitive no team has been able to dominate the division. This makes the second half of the season very exciting, as places for automatic promotion and play offs are certainly up for grabs across at least a dozen teams.



Remembrance Day 2025

Our two U18 teams are showing what good sides they are becoming; they are already attracting players to bolster their squad. It should be interesting to see how much further improvement they will make in the new year. Our Over 45s veterans are still looking for additional players to bolster their squad so if there is anyone interested in dusting off their boots and playing again, we would be happy to hear from them. Finally on behalf of the club committee, team management and players we wish all our supporters and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fixtures at Hargrave Park in December and January; all are League Fixtures with 3.00pm kick offs:

13 th	December	v	Southend Manor
20 th	December	v	FC Romania
3 rd	January	v	Hoddesdon Town
17 th	January	v	May & Baker



Tom Williams
Secretary

Tel: 07921 403842

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07368 809138 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
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 Crundwell 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 Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
Helpline	Tel: 07704 553727	Stansted Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	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.	
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell		
Uttlesford Support Group	Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Lorraine Hayes Tel: 814242 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		
Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.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.

Index to Advertisers

IFC - Inside Front Cover			IBC - Inside Back Cover			OBC - Outside Back Cover		
Building Services	A Wright Builders	8	Garden Services	D Honour & Son Landscapes	OBC	Hairstressing	Lino Thomas	OBC
	David Fortune (Builder)	OBC		Greenscroft Fencing	16			
	D S Designs	8		Mowtivated	16			
	JKL Construction	IBC		The Secret Gardener	16			
	N & J Westwood	8						
	Renovate Interiors	IFC						
	Uttlesford District Council	8						
Chiropody	R Handford	12	Halls for Hire	Quaker Meeting House	12	Household Installations	D C Alarms	18
	Julie Golden	12		Stansted Free Church Hall	12		SDS Aerials	18
Cleaning	Clear Ovens	IFC		St John's Hall	12			
	Go-Jo Quality Cleaning	24		Ugley Village Hall	12			
Care	Hargrave House Care Home	26	Leisure	Stansted Social Club	12	Motor	D Bonney & Sons	IFC
	Mountfitchet House Care Home	26						
	Sierra Homecare Ltd	26	Osteopathy	The Osteopath	IBC	Painting & Decorating	Brown's Painting & Decorating	8
Christmas Trees	Alsa Wood	16					Lesley Anne Painting	8
							Taylors Decorating	8
Community Services	Hearing Help	18	Plastering	T F Plastering	8	Plumbing & Heating	BG Plumbing & Heating	8
	Helpline	12					Harpers Plumbing & Heating	OBC
	Touchoint Memory Lane Café	12	Preschool	Rainbow Pre-School	16		Jones (Plumbing & Heating)	24
	Uttlesford Community Travel	12					Orion Heating	24
Computing	MCM Computer Services	18	Property Maintenance	Camwood Home Improvements	IBC		P Knight Plumbing	24
	Taylor Computer Services	18		Christopher the Locksmith	18	Soft Furnishings	Cook Upholstery	18
Dental	Castle Dental	18		Do-It-4U	24		Stort Blinds	IFC
				DPS Handyman Services	24	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC
Electrical & Solar	CK Electrical Installations	24		Ray on the Hill	24		Mowtivated	16
	Freeley Solar & Electrical	OBC		Finch and Son	OBC			
Finance	TW Estates	16						
Fitness	Flexible Strength	24						
	Stansted Pilates	OBC						
Food & Drink	Nolaki Turkish & Mediterranean	IBC						
	The Cock Inn, Henham	18						
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	IFC						
	J Day & Son (Stonemason)	24						
Furniture	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	IFC						
	K&B Bespoke Kitchens	IBC						

FREE PARKING
ON SITE



NOLAKI

TURKISH & MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT

TAKEAWAY
COLLECTION
AVAILABLE





LUNCH MENU
MONDAY TO FRIDAY | 12PM - 4PM

2 COURSES - £14.95 PER PERSON
3 COURSES - £17.95 PER PERSON

EXPLORE A VARIETY OF COLD AND HOT STARTERS, MAINS INCLUDING KEBABS, SEAFOOD, AND VEGETARIAN OPTIONS, AND INDULGENT DESSERTS.

SUNDAY ROAST MENU
SERVED FROM 12-5PM

CHOOSE FROM HALF ROASTED CHICKEN, SIRLOIN OF BEEF, LAMB, VEGETARIAN ROAST, OR OUR SPECIAL MIXED ROAST.

ALL SERVED WITH ROAST POTATOES, SEASONAL VEGETABLES, YORKSHIRE PUDDING & GRAVY.



CALL: 01279812964 | VISIT: WWW.NOLAKI.CO.UK/

30 SILVER ST, STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, STANSTED CM24 8HD





Kitchens • Bathrooms
Electrics • Conversions


Fully Qualified Experienced Tradesmen
All other aspects of building

Get in touch today for a free quote

Office: 01279 814296 Mobile: 07714 300920
Email: camwoodhome@outlook.com
www.camwoodhome.co.uk

 [camwoodhome](#)


the osteopath




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.*
8-9pm Mon / 9-10am Sat.

Please call to book an appointment or a class
01279 813371 or **07973 409675**
www.hazel-williams.co.uk





JKL CONSTRUCTION
& CARPENTRY LTD

Please contact Matthew Williams for further information
Tel: 07507 880435
info@jklconstructionltd.co.uk
www.jklconstructionltd.co.uk






Specialising in

- Project management
- Renovations
- New build homes
- Conversions
- Extensions
- All works to achieve a quality result and a pristine finish

We have access to quality trades people who we have trust in, so you can trust us to make your dream home a reality!







Working in partnership for you

CLASSIC & CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH DESIGN



K&B

BESPOKE KITCHENS

T: 01279 815737 M: 07710 434063
E: enquiries@kandbkitchens.co.uk
www.kandbkitchens.co.uk



LINO THOMAS
HAIRDRESSERS

TELEPHONE 01279 812910

LINO THOMAS, THE GREENS BUILDING, CAMBRIDGE ROAD,
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET, ESSEX CM24 8BZ
WWW.LINOTHOMASHAIRDRESSING.CO.UK

AVEDA
HAIR CARE SYSTEMS

NEW BUILDS & ALTERATIONS ■ LOFT CONVERSIONS ■ KITCHEN & BATHROOMS ■ LANDSCAPING ■ THROUGH FLOORS ■

David Fortune

MASTER BUILDER

For a free quotation please call
01279 816883 or **07576 753811**
or email: fortunemasterbuilder@gmail.com

Plan drawing service available

FINCH & SON

KITCHENS
BATHROOMS • BEDROOMS
PLUMBING • CARPENTRY
SMALL BUILDING WORKS
DECORATING • TILING

Paul Finch (BEng)
07981 907 624 finchandson@gmail.com

FREELEY SOLAR & ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

OUR SERVICES

- SOLAR PV
- BATTERY STORAGE
- EV CHARGERS
- CUSTOMISED DESIGN
- ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION
- REWIRE
- FUSEBOARD CHANGES
- COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC

FULLY QUALIFIED AND FULLY INSURED

CONTACT US: 01799 796442 07812 209611
hello@freeleysolar.co.uk

[freeleysolar](https://www.instagram.com/freeleysolar) [FreeleySolar](https://www.facebook.com/FreeleySolar) www.freeleysolar.co.uk

Harpers
Heating & Plumbing Ltd

www.harpersplumbing.co.uk

All Plumbing, Heating & Gas Repairs
Boiler Servicing & Installation - Bathroom Installations
Gas & Oil Specialists - Boiler Finance Available

Tel: 01279 771981 Email: info@harpersplumbing.co.uk

GAS safe **OFTEC** **Finance Available** **12 YEAR Guarantee**

D. Honour & Son
(Landscape) Ltd.

Your local Marshalls approved Installer
Brickwork Paving Fencing

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

BALI British Association of Landscape Industries
Constructionline Part of Capita plc
Marshalls REGISTER Approved Landscape Contractors and Brickwork installers

Tel: 01279 813160
info@honourlandscape.co.uk
www.honourlandscape.co.uk
The Old Brickyard, Elsenham Road, Stansted, Essex CM24 8ST

MASKALLS
TREE SURGERY

Small family business
Big expertise in trees

Call George
M: 07982 601 570 | T: 01279 819 127
email: george@maskalls.co.uk
www.maskalls.co.uk

All types of tree care & hedge cutting undertaken.
Call for a free quotation.