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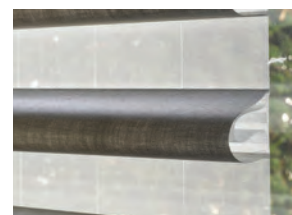
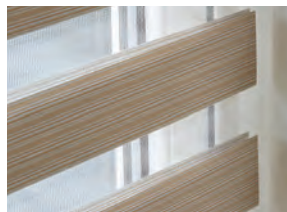
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Front cover

Horse Riders in Alsa Street

by Yvonne Ayres

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE

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

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EDITORIAL



One of our Link team members, Yvonne Ayres, took the lovely cover picture this month. We would very much like to have more front covers with people in the picture, so if any of you have events coming up, we would be grateful if you could bear us in mind when you take photos, thanks. For the cover, pictures need to be portrait – unlike inside which should be landscape. I am struck this month by the wonderful fundraising efforts being made locally. The Christian Aid lunch raised over £462, see page 11. During July Magna Carta School will be holding a Fun Day and Bentfield Primary their annual Music in the Park. These events are to raise funds for the schools and have been organised by their dedicated and extremely hard-working parents' associations; see page 6.

Congratulations to Paris Legore and Rob Wakefield. The former and her family have completely revamped her florist shop on Lower Street, see the opposite page. Many of you will recall how, during lockdown, Paris took plants all over the village for anyone to take home, as she had to close the shop; which was a lovely, generous gesture. Rob Wakefield runs the Gunyah Vineyard. It was only a couple of years ago that he set up this local vineyard and, on the very first harvest, he won a Silver Award for his Bacchus wine, see page 13. Thanks to both Paris and Rob for enhancing this publication, as well as to all our contributors and advertisers.

Ed



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place is open every **Friday, including school holidays**, from 9.15am-11.30am in the comfortable Free Church Hall. All ages are welcome, although particularly suitable for children. The Fun Place is friendly and informal and imaginative play is encouraged.



Recently dressing-up clothes have been popular, along with the doll's house and Peppa Pig toys. The children enjoy playing with all the toys and have plenty of space to run around, especially for chase. Sing-Along around 10.30am each week is enjoyed by all and visiting young ones share their favourite songs. Adults chat over coffee in a relaxed atmosphere. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, hot drink and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards

Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



www.letstalkstansted.org

Open Evening

It was a pleasure to welcome both old and new faces to our annual Open Evening on 20th May. In addition to a discussion about our own activities and plans, we were also enthralled and educated by the experiences of our guest speaker, Roy Owens (www.royowensconsultancy.com). He recounted the personal journey that led him from the depths of alcohol addiction to recovery and total sobriety; he now uses his hypnotherapy training to support others with similar problems. It was a thought-provoking reminder that the very first step in any kind of addiction or mental illness is admitting to yourself that there is a problem; after this, you need to also take the steps to seek appropriate help.

24/7 Samaritans Awareness Day

This takes place on 24th July every year and is dedicated to raising awareness about the vital support provided by the Samaritans. It spotlights mental health, suicide prevention and the life-saving role the Samaritans play in offering a listening ear round the clock, reminding everyone that no-one has to face tough times alone and encouraging people to talk openly about their feelings. The date serves as a reminder that the Samaritans' services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; hence the significance of the date.

Mental health challenges can arise at any time, and support should always be accessible. There should be no stigma whatsoever about seeking help, open conversations should be encouraged and can even save lives. The day recognises the hard work and dedication of Samaritans' volunteers, who are always there to listen, support and help people find hope in difficult times. You can contact them free by calling 116123 from any phone.

Dina McDonald

Email: dina@letstalkstansted.org

PARIS LEGORE RE-OPENING

After growing up in the village and finishing a degree in professional floristry, I opened up my little flower shop in 2012 at the age of 23. With so much support from the community we have managed to keep thriving and providing our beautiful flowers to many homes in Stansted and the surrounding villages. We have been honoured to judge *Stansted in Bloom* several times, enjoyed helping to raise money for local schools and been able to work with some of Stansted's charities.

However, surviving the high street has not been without its challenges. The Lower Street flooding, the Covid pandemic and Brexit have caused variable fortunes in village businesses during these turbulent times. We were determined not to be one of the businesses forced to leave Stansted, and wanted to replace some of the services lost along the way. So we picked up our paintbrushes and transformed and expanded our little shop; its increased size has enabled us to expand into some new and exciting areas.

We are still your local flower shop, but now also offer balloon art, and a large selection of greeting cards and gifts. We decided to stock as many eco-friendly and sustainable products as we could, which we have sourced from other independent family-run businesses around the UK.



Thanks to Dale Crowson for the lovely photograph

We are proud to be an independent family run business and working together is important to us. All the family help, with mother-daughter duo in the shop (sometimes my six-year-old daughter Savannah helps too) and the delivery driver, known as Grandad, often stops by to check up, have a chat or run errands for some of the older customers along his route. After being closed for several months to make this transformation, we are excited to be back open in the community where we belong and look forward to seeing you. Visit our Facebook page for more information.

Paris Legore
Tel: 812810



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

Celebrating Belonging

We came together as a whole school in early June to celebrate our core value of *Belonging*. Each class spent time exploring what it means to belong in our school community, focusing on our new shared rules: *Be ready, be respectful, be safe*. Through thoughtful discussions and activities, the children reflected on how these values guide our actions and help everyone feel welcome, valued and safe.



As we have recently opened our new sandpit and enchanted woodland library shown above, each class spent some time exploring these areas and enjoying being together.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher

Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Our fabulous woodland campsite is open and we are ready to receive guests. You can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or in our camping paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. Both these options include entry to the farm where you can meet our lovely animals and their babies. This is a fabulous holiday and all for just £25 a night as well as being on your doorstep! To book please message us on Facebook.

We still have babies of all sorts everywhere: chicks, ducklings, lambs and kid goats and trust me, they do not come much cuter! You can even cuddle a lamb. We have a fabulous safe area to play in, a train ride (£2 extra), a stream to splash in, a woodland trail to explore, ice creams to be slurped and crafts to be created and more! Entry: £6 (under 1s free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family. We are open every day, but please check our Facebook page just in case. There really is so much to do and see, and our animals just love seeing you all. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN. Be sure to come and see us over the summer. We look forward to welcoming you.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR STANLEY LAW

7th October 1931-28th April 2025



Dad was born at the Game Keepers House, Durrell's Wood Burton End, and grew up in Bentfield End with his parents and younger sister. He attended the village school in Chapel Hill, and on occasions he liked to play hooky from school and hang out with friends at the Football Club. In those days, children went home for dinner and he told us stories of how he and his mates counted the church bell clock chime so they would know when to go home. On one occasion they miscounted and turned up home early and his mum asked him why he was home. Dad replied "for lunch mum" and it all went wrong from there!

Dad loved to tell us stories of his childhood, particularly being a young lad during the war, with an American base in the village. He often started these tales with an impersonation of his Uncle Albert: *During the War* ... He would tell us stories about the evacuees who stayed with his family. His sister was charged with taking them to the store to pick up rations, and on one occasion Dad and his friends were hiding in the trees on Bentfield Green with pea shooters and took aim at his sister, only to miss and shoot a hole in the flour rations, leaving a trail of flour and trouble waiting when he got home.

Dad started his working life as a butcher with Mascal Butchers until he turned 18, when he was conscripted and posted to Egypt as part of the Royal Army Medical Corps. After completing his National Service, Dad returned to his butcher's job until he joined Post Office Telephones where he worked until retirement.

Dad met my Mum Janet on a blind date set up by his good friends Peter and Nancy Camp. Mum was a student nurse at the Herts and Essex Hospital, working alongside Nancy. They married in October 1957, initially living in Bishop's Stortford before moving to Stansted. Dad would tell us that it was the best decision of his life and how, with Mum, his faith and interest in the church developed, and he gave up his Teddy Boy days. Three children came along, David, Edward (Ed), and then me. They had a long and happy marriage until Mum's passing in 1996, aged just 60.

He and Mum became members of the Stansted Methodist Church with their young family, where they made lifelong friends. Dad was the treasurer and Mum played the piano.

They met Marion and Mike Dyer through the church, both of whom have continued to support Dad in his later years. Dad became a local preacher, and after he retired from this he would still go along to Langley Baptist church, where Mum came from, to participate in Mike's services.

Mum and Dad always enjoyed country music and enriched their lives with many new country music friends. Later in life they joined the Stansted Football Club and became greatly involved with the running of the social side of the Club; they really enjoyed hosting a monthly country music night there. Saturday would be a busy day preparing a buffet which included stuffing many, many vol-au-vents. Dad also enjoyed watching football at the Club and became a member of the darts team with Ed.

Dad was never idle or bored; he enjoyed many hobbies including painting, particularly water colours, gardening, and playing golf, although not that well. He was also not too clever driving the buggy and nearly drove into the lake, or maybe he was following his ball! He enjoyed travelling and both Dad and Mum took holidays every year to new countries and places. Dad loved dogs and could always be called on for dog sitting and walking. His favourite dog was Tia, and he would walk miles with her at his side.

Dad found new interests to fill his time in retirement without Mum by his side. He joined the Re-enactment League where he met Gary and Grant, who became firm friends. They used to have a great time acting out battles and discussing the American Civil War. They camped, put on shows for schools and fêtes and had a yearly trip to Brean Sands for the weekend event. He spent time with all three of us, taking us on holidays or days out. He enjoyed the company of Dave and Karen, Ed and Lesley and myself and Michelle. He also enjoyed his relationships with his granddaughter Jenna and great grandchildren Alfie, Phoebe, and Maisie whom he saw grow from babies. In his final years he came to live with us in Australia for nearly a year and enjoyed many adventures and the great outdoors, even camping at 92 years young!

He returned to the UK last year, and moved into Highfield Nursing Home in Saffron Walden, where he became reunited with a friend from the Football Club, John Robinson, who died in January. They kept each other going and would have a constant banter which reminded Ed of Statler and Waldorf from the Muppets Show. He was extremely well cared for by all the staff at Highfield and enjoyed many activities and outings. He favoured trips out to the Temeraire for his favourite curry and a pint of Doom Bar.

Dad maintained his faith when he could no longer get back to church in Stansted, keeping in touch with Mike, Marion and Alan with all the news. They brought him recordings of the church services and copies of *The Link*, and Rev'd Stuart Veitch took him communion. He had been Chairman of the Stansted Association of Christian Churches when *The Link* started in 1980, and he always loved reading it.

Dad was a loving and supportive father and grandad to all of us and we will miss him dearly.

Alex Law

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 1st July

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

Becoming by Michelle Obama

The highs and lows of Michelle's journey from humble beginnings in the less glamorous South Side of Chicago, to the grandeur of the White House and life as America's first African-American First Lady

All Welcome Tel 813056

Bentfield School PTA



1.30 - 8 pm Sat 5th July

Live music to suit all tastes

Tickets from the School Office,
The Dog and Duck or Intercounty

£15 advance, £18 on the gate

Accompanied under 16s free

but still need a ticket



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER FUN DAY

Noon - 3 pm Sunday 6th July

Bouncy Castle • Face Painting

Live Entertainment

Ice Cream • BBQ • Pimms • Cakes

All Welcome ~ Bring a Blanket

Entry Free

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

1	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
5	Sat	Music in the Park	Bentfield School 1.30 - 8 pm
6	Sun	Summer Fun Day	Magna Carta School noon - 3 pm
		Grove Cottage Afternoon Tea	Down Hall Hotel 2 - 5 pm
		Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
6 & 20	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
8	Tue	The Arts Society B S RSPB	South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
9	Wed	Link copy due in today	before noon
12	Sat	The Wind in the Willows	Hatfield Forest 6 pm
16	Wed	Ugley WI Newport Flower Club	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm
17	Thu	WI U3A Monthly Meeting	Touchpoint 7.30 pm St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
19	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
20	Sun	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
26	Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm



Green Waste Skip Dates

**Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm**

6th & 20th July

3rd & 17th Aug

31st Aug Crafton Green



AFTERNOON TEA

2 - 5 pm Sun 6th July

Down Hall Hotel, Matching Road
CM22 7AS

Adults £45 or £53 inc glass of fizz
Under 12s £22.50

Advance Booking essential

Call 651908 or email:

fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org



10 am - noon

Sat 19th July

Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs

Fish ~ Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb

Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam

Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants

Refillable Laundry and Edible Products

Knitting and Needlework

Refreshments and Free Parking

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11 am - 5 pm Sun 20th July

(last entry 4.00 pm)

Lancashire Belle with Songs of the 40s
Exhibits relating to World War II
Local craft and produce stalls.

Tickets £6.50 on gate or £5.50 in
advance from www.trybooking.com

All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 8th July

South Mill Arts

Audley End House

Silver Collection

by Christopher Garibaldi

Guests welcome £7. Coffee at 10 am

Tel 656065 for more information



Ugley WI

2 pm Wed 16th July

Ugley Village Hall

Uttlesford Community Travel

Dial a Ride

Visitors Welcome

Plenty of free parking



HATFIELD FOREST

6 pm Sat 12th July

near the Lake

Illyria present

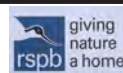
The Wind in the Willows

based on the book by Kenneth Grahame

Tickets: Adults £19 Under 16s £10

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

Advance booking essential



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 8th July

Bishop's Park Community Centre

Jono Forgham

Nature Notes Columnist

Visitors welcome, entry £5

Tel: Peter 07876 295456

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

A reminder of this year's festival is all happening on **Saturday 5th July** 1.30pm-8.00pm on the school field. Entry is by ticket only: adults £15 advance, £18 on the day, subject to availability. Tickets for children aged 3-16 are free but there is a maximum of two children per paying adult. Please note that all children over three will need a ticket but no ticket is required for under threes. Tickets may be purchased from Bentfield School Office, the Dog and Duck, and Intercounty.

Tracy
Bentfield School PTFA
Tel: 01279 813626
Email: mitpstansted@gmail.com



www.eastonlodge.co.uk

In July the volunteers have to work hard to keep the gardens watered, dead-headed and trimmed. After an extremely dry spring, followed by some rain in early June, we hope that our well and water butts will be able to keep the flowers coming if it is dry. Another big July job is picking vegetables to sell to visitors and fruit to make into jam. The roses and lavender hedges are at their best in July, with lovely fragrance enjoyed by visitors and hopefully attracting butterflies. We have recently added to our collection of roses, so the borders in Peto's Italian Garden are punctuated by their bright colours and the walled kitchen garden beds are filled with softer hues, together with grasses. This year we have started the huge job of replacing the lavender hedge beside the Italian Garden. We like to use cuttings so that we know the plants are all of the same variety. We took many cuttings in June, so we can finish that job next year and start replacing some of the hedges in the kitchen garden.



Our open day on **Sunday 20th July** 11.00am-5.00pm is the day when we remember the cost of war. Many men from the area lost their lives in WWI and many more from the Great Dunmow airbase, which was adjacent to the gardens in WWII. We have memorial trees in the glade and there are moving memorials in the church at Little Easton. On the open day there will be 1940s songs performed by the *Lancashire Belle* and a range of exhibits related to those eras, as

well as local craft and produce stalls. The gardens are also open every Thursday 11.00am-3.00pm during July, with lots of games for families and of course homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks. Booking in advance saves £1 per adult and children are free. See our website for details.

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

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

Spring was very dry and we did not get decent amounts of rain until late May. It was possible to see trees reacting to this and doing their best to conserve water. A horse chestnut tree outside the Reserve dropped nearly all its fruit (conkers) when they were hardly developed and not much bigger than peas. In the Reserve we are lucky to have lots of water and the soil is still moist so our trees are generally doing well. We have been given 50 young trees, whips 30cm tall, of various native species; we have given a temporary home to these in our enclosure before we plant them out in the autumn.



There have been lots of successful birds' nests in the reserve and in late spring the trees were alive with the sound of fledglings calling to their parents. The numerous blue tit families in particular are keeping up a constant chatter. I have previously mentioned that we often see a grey wagtail in the Reserve but we had no

evidence as to whether they bred there. Now we do, as this spring we were delighted to see a young grey wagtail being fed by its parent.

We are in the process of planning some improvements to the paths. Several of them become excessively muddy in the winter, which forces people to take a wider line across our meadow areas. This compacts the soil and prevents the more delicate wild flowers like orchids from growing there. As part of this work we will be closing the southernmost entrance to the Reserve. All the entrances from the footpath alongside the field and from the car park will remain open.

John Welham
Warden
Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY FUN DAY

Please join us for our Summer Fun Day on **Sunday 6th July** noon-3.00pm at the school in St John's Road, next to St John's Church. Entry is free and everyone in the village is invited to join us for fun and games. There will be something for all ages: bouncy castles, face painting, football fun factory and prizes, BBQ (supported by Idel Meats), cakes, Pimms, ice cream van, live entertainment (including from Ellouise School of Dance, Magna Carta's Got Talent and singers) and a raffle, plus much-loved traditional fair games. Why not bring a picnic blanket and spend the afternoon with us? All funds raised will go to provide resources to support the children of our school. We really look forward to the school and village communities coming together for an afternoon of fun and fundraising. For more information please email us.

Magna Carta School PTA
Email: magnacartapta@gmail.com

BRAIN TRAINING

A simple Way of improving Working Memory. What makes us Human, part two

Working memory is not only the ability to retain information for a short space of time, but also to manipulate that information. This ability only too often degrades with time. The old adage, use it or lose it, was never more apt in this case. A very simple way of battering your brain back to youth is this: take a quantity of small pieces of paper and write a number on each piece, perhaps numbers one-nine. Fold each piece up and put them all in a pot. Jumble them about and pick three pieces out. Unfold them, learn the numbers, lay the numbers down and walk about for 10-20 seconds, then see if you remembered those numbers correctly.

To strengthen true working memory, do the same, but recall the numbers in either ascending or descending order, rather than the order of appearance. This exercise could also be done with Scrabble pieces and alphabetical order. Repeat a few times; if or when this is easy, increase the number of samples you pick out of the pot to four, to five, to six and so on. For the best result, you need to find the level that you can just do, so making the odd mistake is exactly the level to work at. The brain craves success, and if the level is too hard it will just give up, but if it is too easy minimal progress can be made. We need to give the brain a bit of a workout to get the improvement.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

April, May and June were very busy for our Millers because of the multiplicity of open days with Easter, May Day weekend, National Mills weekend, Spring Bank Holiday, and to compound matters, the June opening the weekend after Spring Bank Holiday!

We are very pleased to have the windmill open quite frequently, especially now it has been extensively restored; however staffing the stewarding rota is a real problem. We have recruited new members but we need more, so if anyone would like to join us and help with that you would be most welcome. It does not need to be a huge commitment in time; as little as a two-hour time slot once or twice a year would help. If you are interested, please send a message on our Facebook account or email info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk and we will organise a training session. One of our new recruits, Ellie, has been busy freshening up the displays in the mill. You can come and admire her efforts on our next open day which is on **Sunday 6th July 1.30pm-5.30pm**. Planning for our annual fete on Bank Holiday **Monday 25th August** is already under way. We will be offering the usual mixture of activities around the mill and on the Recreation Ground, so put it in your diaries and keep the day free to come for a great afternoon out and to support our fundraising efforts.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 07739 428352



A Festival of Voices

Another great four weeks of making music under the expertise of Jane Wheeler, who gently cajoled a random group of people who enjoyed singing into a really good *scratch* choir. This year we had a large male contingent and it was great to have their voices balancing the female ones. Many did not read music, but Jane went over the parts thoroughly until we learnt them by heart. A couple of the asylum seekers and singers from East London who we met last year came on the final day, including Richie who played his bass guitar and it was lovely to see them again.




As last year, our repertoire included some African songs; pronunciation was tricky but we got there in the end! Our collaborative accompanist Michael Goodey was great, particularly in Ed McCurdy's *Last Night I had the strangest Dream*, made famous by Simon and Garfunkel. Michael was particularly sensitive to the mood of this lovely song about the ending of war. The other nine songs included some well-known ones such as *Ain't no Mountain high enough*, *Make your own kind of Music*, *Higher and Higher*, and *I can see clearly now*, as well as songs which were new to us. After the fourth Saturday workshop, some friends and family came to hear us. The event was recorded by *Touchpoint Radio* for transmission in the near future; visit www.thetouchpoint.org/radio for more information.

We had a wonderful time. One fellow singer said that it was such a brilliant thing to do; another that she had never enjoyed singing so much. We all hope there will be another Stansted Sings Together in the future. Our new venue, Touchpoint, was ideal as we could hear each other more easily. Grateful thanks go to Touchpoint for providing the venue and transport for the asylum seekers free of charge, and to some of their helpers, especially Alan Bore and Yasmin Thurgood who kept us fed and watered. Thanks also to Stansted Airport Community Fund for their contribution. On behalf of the singers I say a big thank you to everyone, especially Jane for her vision and hard work.



Marion Dyer
One of the Singers



Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy

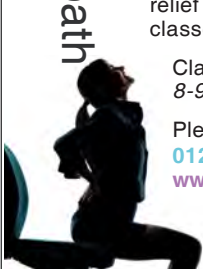

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STANSTED PEOPLE

CATHERINE AND ALAN DEAN



Both our featured people this month are from the North; Catherine is from West Yorkshire and Alan from Lancashire. They met at Salford University where Catherine was studying Modern Languages and Alan Engineering. They were married in 1971 and moved to Stansted. In 1976 they moved into their house in Recreation Ground where they still live. Catherine then taught languages in Harlow, while Alan worked for Post Office (PO) Telecommunications in London. In fact, he started working for them when only 15 years old, installing telephone cables amongst other tasks, and they sponsored him for most of his university studies.

In 1979 the couple moved to Indonesia, with their two toddlers Christopher and Alice; Alan was now working for the US owned Indonesian Satellite Corporation (Indosat). They found living in such a different culture most fascinating, but occasionally a bit challenging, with the high heat and humidity. The young family lived in a house in a lake-side community, all with swimming pools, which helped to combat the heat. One thing they found difficult to get used to was the expectation that they employ an 'ayah' (nanny) for the children; trying to persuade her not to iron shoelaces was one amusing incident! Indonesia is predominantly Moslem; the Deans were glad to find a church nearby. They moved to Jakarta for a while, until Indosat was nationalised in 1981. Since the Indonesian team had a great deal of technical expertise, there was no need for Alan to stay any longer, and the family returned to Stansted in 1981 and their third child, Amy, was born soon afterwards.

Alan worked for British Aerospace in Stevenage for two years, before returning to BT, the new name for PO Telecommunications. He remained with them for 22 years until his retirement. When Amy was three, Catherine returned to part-time teaching, mainly as a supply teacher including at her first school, Burnt Mill in Harlow. She retired from teaching when her older daughter Alice had a baby; she looked after her granddaughter so that Alice could work.

An important aspect of the Deans' life is local politics. Catherine was a member of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) for 12 years, where she first represented Elsenham, then Elsenham and Henham, together with David Morson. The change was due to district ward changes. She was mainly involved in planning, and one of her achievements was to persuade the County Council to install new street lights in Mill Road, Elsenham. She chaired UDC from 2008-2009. She also spent 24 years on the local Parish Council (PC) from 1992, and did a short stint as chair. During this time, she was nominated by the Parish Council to be their representative on The Link Committee; when she stood down from the PC, the Link Committee invited Catherine to become a director, and she is now a valuable part of the Link team.

Alan was part of the PC for three years in the 1980s; he was elected to UDC in 1987 and remains there to this day. In his 38 years as a member of UDC, Alan has served as leader of the Council and on a whole range of committees, both locally and on regional bodies. He describes it as a mixed bag, and now anticipates retirement in a couple of years when Uttlesford will probably be merged with neighbouring councils to form a new and larger authority – for better or for worse! Upon returning from Indonesia, he joined the then Social Democratic Party, which eventually became the LibDems.

Catherine has been involved with Christian Aid ever since returning to the UK. One important part of the work back then was to persuade supermarkets to sell Fairtrade goods; she was clearly highly successful at this, as all supermarkets sell them nowadays. She has supported various campaigns to MPs and has organised soup and bread fundraising lunches. Christian Aid no longer does house to house fundraising as people mostly give charitable donations online these days. She also helped to run Christmas Shoeboxes through the Churches Together in Stansted group. Alan is involved with Sustainable Stansted and loves gardening. Both are active members of Stansted Free Church.

Alan and Catherine are very well travelled; they have visited China, Peru, Russia and Scandinavia, for example. They are rail enthusiasts; their favourite train trip was through the Swiss Alps in the winter. They are lucky to have friends with a flat in Venice, so they have visited that incredible city 10 times. Their family keeps them very busy, with six grandchildren, ranging in age from 11 to 29.



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CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH

This year's Christian Aid lunch, organised by Churches Together in Stansted, raised £462.50. A variety of flavours of soup with French bread were enjoyed by those attending. We were also celebrating the 80th anniversary of the formation of Christian Aid in 1945, when it was set up to help refugees from WWII in Europe. Since then, it has widened its scope to fight poverty and injustice throughout the world, and to give hope to communities who need it most. Thank you to all who made the soup, helped at and attended the event, and generously donated to the life-saving and hope-giving work of Christian Aid.



Catherine Dean
Tel: 07803 299683



www.southmillarts.co.uk

July Entertainment

Starting on **Saturday 5th** at 7.30pm, the *RETRO Rock Show* will take you back in time, featuring BBC's *The Voice* singing sensation Kerry O'Dowd on lead vocals. On **Friday 11th** at 4.30pm and 6.30pm, prepare for *Horrible Histories* live on stage with the acclaimed production of Gorgeous



Georgians and Vile Victorians. Experience the glitz and glamour at our *Pride 2025 cabaret show* on **Friday 25th** at 8.00pm featuring the sensational Drag King Don One, singer and rapper Lewis Sycamore, and Headliner Beat boxer Grace Savage. Check out all the cinema screenings this July, including: *The Salt Path* on 16th at 2.00pm and 17th at 7.00pm, *The*

Phoenician Scheme on 16th at 7.00pm and 17th at 2.00pm, and *NT Live: A Streetcar Named Desire* on 18th at 7.00pm.

Bishop's Stortford Museum is now offering *Relaxed Museum Tours* for visitors over the age of 10 with additional needs, such as those living with dementia, autism, speech and hearing impairments, low vision or similar, every second Friday of the month 10.00am-1.00pm. Entry is free but booking is essential.

Are you interested in technical theatre? Our week-long technical workshop may be for you! Starting on **Monday 28th** with practical learning opportunities, the workshop is the perfect chance for those interested in technical theatre to develop their interest and knowledge. Why not join us for some Kids' Crafts at the end of the month? This summer we are at the circus. Make a clown hat and tie, and pose for a picture or create your own clown jumping jack. From **Tuesday 29th** to **Thursday 31st**, just drop in between 10.00am-2.00pm. For more information about everything that is happening here this season, please see our website.

Seren Stephen
Tel: 710200

Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk



The Arts
Society
Bishop's Stortford

www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 8th July** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA); coffee will be available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Christopher Garibaldi on *Audley End House Silver Collection*.



This collection spans over three centuries and serves to illustrate the ebb and flow of the Griffin, Howard de Walden and Braybrooke family fortunes from the late 17th to the 19th centuries. The history of the house is reflected in its silver collection and this lecture aims to use the silver as a form of documentary evidence to unlock the fascinating history of this spectacular Jacobean house. The talk will also help to place the collection in the context of the stylistic history of English silver more generally. Come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed. Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation of £7. If coming by car, you will need to register your car number at SMA reception. Please see our website for further details. Our Membership Secretary, Sue Chapman can be contacted on 508542 or email: info@tasbs.org.uk.

Michael Fitch



RECYCLING



Save your Holiday Coins

As the holiday season starts remember that we can take your unwanted foreign coins (not notes) for recycling along with old UK coins, ink cartridges (**not** toners), stamps, mobile phones, ipads and tablets (**not** laptops). We do not need chargers but USB leads are useful. Please make sure all personal data has been erased; the easiest way to do this is by a *factory reset*. It would be helpful if donations could be placed in a paper or plastic bag or envelope; please use a separate one for each category. Items can be put in the boxes outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. There is also a collecting box inside St John's church; alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.

As mentioned last month, we are no longer able to accept spectacles for recycling; please take your spectacles to *Specsavers* in Bishop's Stortford, who have a box for them just behind the till. They do not want the cases. A reminder that there are two organisations which refurbish laptops or printers and donate to schools and charities; both will collect from you free of charge. Contact Cambridge Recycling Centre on 01223 473875 email: sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk or Towntech in Harlow tel 898240 www.towntech.co.uk. If you have Dell equipment, including monitors, you can recycle directly with them; go to www.dell.com and search for recycling.

Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059



Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

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We have recently been allocated a plot on the new allotments at Walpole Meadows. Originally an untended site, the transformation in these last few months has been remarkable. Led by two of our Learning Support Assistants, Debbie Capp and Nicola Brown, they have worked tirelessly in their own time alongside family members, friends, parents, carers and staff to develop the site with paths, a grass area, shed, fencing and raised beds, including those of extra height to cater for our special educational needs (SEN) pupils with wheelchairs. We have received an incredible amount of donations, resources and offers of support from the wider school community and we are delighted with their involvement.



Having a school allotment offers numerous benefits, enriching our children's education and well-being. It provides a hands-on learning experience that reinforces subjects like science and environmental studies, helping our pupils understand concepts such as plant growth, ecosystems and sustainability. Additionally it promotes healthy eating habits by teaching pupils about the provenance of food and encouraging them to try fresh produce. The physical activity involved supports their overall fitness, while the calming effect of nature enhances mental well-being. Planting has begun, and we await the growth of a range of fruit and vegetables, such as beetroot, lettuce, cabbage, sweetcorn, tomatoes, courgettes, strawberries and gooseberries. We are currently keeping an ongoing record of progress through the Bentfield Community Information section of our school website, which links to the associated Bentfield Allotment Facebook page. If you want to know how things are going, or offer support, please see our website.

David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626

Email: admin@bentfield.essex.sch.uk

POTHoles, PITfalls AND CLAIMS

Pothole Damage Claims, Proof and Pitfalls

Please be aware that I am writing this as a lay person and I have no legal standing. I am not responsible for any claims you make for damage to your vehicle from road defects such as potholes and drains. I believe that the following details are correct as I write in May 2025.

What is a Pothole?

It is a pot-shaped depression in a road surface which is deeper than 50mm and longer and wider than 100mm. Only if a pothole has been reported will you have the slightest chance of making a claim, on the basis that if they did not know about the pothole, they could not be liable.

If there is an incident, what information is required?

You need to report the position of the pothole. On the What3Words App find and send the words to yourself for later, or take a screen shot, or make note of your surroundings: gateway, house and road markings etc, anything which will confirm the spot for later use.

Measurements

You need to measure the depth, width and length; these measurements will be checked.

Photographs

When safe to do so, take a picture of the pothole or drain, as it gives the road conditions at that precise time. Avoid taking a photo in the dark if possible. You are only allowed five photos, so choose them carefully.

Receipt for Repairs

When a vehicle is repaired, ensure that the garage put on the receipt that it is compatible with pothole damage and a description of the repairs done.

Essex Highways Website

Check if the pothole has been reported before by visiting www.essexhighways.org/track-it. Make a note of any enquiry number and notices as to when it was checked; it may say that an inspection is due soon or has been done, for instance and possibly re-checked or due for repair.

Sue Leech

Email: sue@heatwaves.co.uk

Part Two, which explains how to make a claim, will be in a future edition of The Link.

Ed

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

www.thegunyahvineyard.com

Breaking news

The Gunyah Vineyard has just won a silver award for our 2023 Bacchus at the 2025 *Independent English Wine*



Awards. It is an incredible achievement to have a wine from our very first harvest selected for a silver award and we could not be happier. We received high praise from a panel of industry experts, in competition with wines from 55 top English wine producers. We are passionate about supporting local causes and contributing to our local community.

Rob Wakefield
Creative Director

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

This year we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the ending of WWII. We celebrate the victory over evil forces, honour the bravery of those who gave their lives for our freedom and ponder on the causes and consequences of such violence. In 1945 the United Nations was formed; a great hope for future peace and stability.

A Dutch artist was commissioned to produce a sculpture to visually symbolise this hope. He produced a horizontal pole with a hook at the top from which was suspended a globe. He entitled it *Space Ship Earth*. When he was asked to explain his idea, he said that it was a very practical warning; the earth was like a spaceship travelling through the universe and humans were the crew inside. If squabbles and dissent broke out, the ship would not function properly and could even lead to total disaster. Unfortunately, since 1945, there have been more wars than all those previously fought.

Two thousand years earlier, Jesus gave us another vision: God is Our Father. We are His family. He wants us to bring His Kingdom of joy, happiness and peace, *as it is in heaven*, to our earth, by recognising that we are all created equally as brothers and sisters. He also wants us to overcome all bitterness and dissent, overwhelmingly through our loving actions towards one another, as Jesus demonstrated.

David Morson
St Theresa's Catholic Church



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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

104th Birthday

Gordon (Ted) Barrett is a long-time resident of Stansted, a parishioner of St Theresa's, and a Royal Air Force World War II Veteran. In May he celebrated his 104th birthday at his daughter's home in Hampshire. A week earlier, he had undertaken his first flight for some time, at Hunsdon Airfield in Hertfordshire. He retains the title of the *Oldest Pilot and Engineer* in the UK and in May 2020 was presented with the Old and Bold Award, by the Royal Aero Club. We wish Ted continued good health now and in the future.

Tony Aldridge



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

Contact Sue Moloney Tel: 07759 532225
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 July

- 6th 10.30am Babs Ward
13th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
20th 10.30am Songs of Praise
27th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Communion



- 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** Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145
Priest Email: revhelenstn@gmail.com

- Pastoral** Kathryn West Tel: 816293
Assistant Mobile: 07880 602717
Email: kewest@btinternet.com

- Director of** Anne Brooks
Music: Email: anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk

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

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

From St John's Registers

May

Baptism

18th Lydia Nwoke

Funerals

21st Arthur Law, age 93 - burial at St Mary's
24th Pauline Johnson, age 88 - burial of ashes at St Mary's

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the May draw:

£100	No 132	Katy Dockerill
£ 50	No 2	Kathy West
£ 25	No 5	Linda and Tony Gurr

The draw for July will be held on **27th July** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2500 given away each year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson

Tel: 819062

Email: jean733@btinternet.com



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Lt Col Alan Colstoun Gardner, whose grave is in St Mary's churchyard, had a very special visitor pay respects on a wet June morning. His great grandson Crispin, who lives in Sydney, came to church to learn about the Gardner family connection to St Mary's. Kate, our local historian, took us on a tour of the church and churchyard and explained all the plaques and the history. It was all so very special and both Kate and I had goosebumps when Crispin told us that he shares the same birthdate as his great grandfather. Crispin and his wife Alison are on a five-week holiday from Australia.



Later in the day, another couple came inside church looking lost. I asked if I could assist. They were looking for some family plots and could I help? So, together with Nigel, Moira and Jumble the dog, we found Nigel's great, great grandfather. They asked if they could take a photo of me and thanked me for looking after this magnificent building. This was a day of connecting people with loved ones for sure and this makes me so happy and proud to be part of that journey.



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THEN AND NOW part 2

Lower Street

Where the flower shop is now was Peggy's, a shop filled with goodies. There was also Mr Bunting selling fruit, vegetables and flowers. Next to him was Hicks' coal and seed merchants where my son worked on Saturday mornings, weighing up corn and feed for the week; he earned £1 an hour! Then there was Stringer's groceries and Peter Wright, gents' hairdresser. My boys loved going to him. Over the road where The Cork House now is was Mumford's wet fish shop, and Turner's grocery shop which is now a house. On the corner of High Lane was a café with a juke box which was well used. If I have missed some out perhaps someone can enlighten me. I miss those days as we had lovely shops then. In Station Road we had Mrs Torey, another grocery shop, Dick Johnson watch and clock repairs, and another small shop selling bread and food.



Photo courtesy of Ray Woodcock

Chapel Hill

The Old Courthouse which has now been turned into flats was originally called the Central Hall. We had bingo there as well as jumble sales and whist drives. The hall was the centre of the village for functions; later it became Rocky's night club. Rochford's Nursery is now Forest Hall Park; it grew tomatoes and cucumbers in rows of greenhouses, and a little train came and collected them and took them to the packing shed. My husband's uncle worked there all his life starting at 14 until he retired at 65; my husband's family lived in the cottages opposite.

Jean Chopping



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our May meeting was our AGM so we had no speaker to entertain us. However, the official business over, we all enjoyed a floral themed quiz and competition, for which there were a good number of entries, as there are a lot of green fingered ladies amongst our members. The winning entry was a gorgeous lupin. After the competition we all enjoyed a well-stocked raffle and a good cup of tea.

The speaker at our July meeting on **Wednesday 16th July** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall will be a representative from

Dial a Ride who will update us on this brilliant local travel scheme. If you want to find out more about it why not come along and join us for the afternoon. You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

Community Energy - its role in fighting the climate threat

Communities around the country are stepping up to tackle climate change in exciting and creative ways. By changing how we produce and use energy, we are not only reducing our carbon footprints, but also building stronger connections within our neighbourhoods. One shining example of this approach, which is growing rapidly here and in other countries, is community-driven renewable energy projects which are simple, powerful, and absolutely inspiring!

How does Community Energy work?

Local residents combine to fund solar panels installed, free of charge, on public buildings such as schools, hospitals, and libraries. These buildings' occupants buy the electricity generated, at a lower price than usual, which covers installation and running costs. Any surplus funds created are used to benefit the local community, and investors get a reasonable return. So, there are benefits for all in the community.



Can we do it in Stansted?

We want to explore bringing Community Energy here to Stansted. Want to know more? Can you help us achieve this, please? Do you know any buildings or land in Stansted, where solar panels could be installed to save energy, reduce costs, and combat climate change? If so, please get in touch with me.

Bob Burlton
Tel: 07764 182921
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

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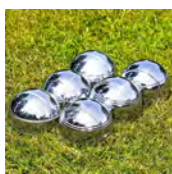
What started as a casual trip from *The Rose and Crown* pub turned into an unforgettable sporting triumph on French soil. Ten of us set off for Dieppe, spirits high and expectations modest, en route to Rungis, with little more than the hope of a friendly game of pétanque. We expected a low-key match, maybe six-a-side. What we walked into was something else entirely. Rungis was hosting a full-blown pétanque tournament - a serious affair with nearly 100 people in attendance, drinks flowing and tension simmering before the first boule had even hit the gravel.



After a welcoming BBQ and an apéritif, the tournament began. Sixty players signed up, forming 30 teams. Each player was paired with a teammate, mostly local French people. I was fortunate to be matched with Laura, a cool-headed and fiercely accurate partner who knew the terrain intimately. We battled through several tense round-robin matches. The heat was relentless, and so was the competition. Every point was earned, every game fiercely fought. Eventually two of our English contingent powered through to the final, with their French teammates. In a nail-biting showdown that had the entire crowd watching and cheering, Laura and I held our nerve and edged out the final victory. Joe Allwright and his partner came in a close second, giving the Brits a dominant one-two finish on French turf.

As the sun began to set over Rungis, we were presented with trophies, toasted with French wine, and applauded by an incredibly welcoming crowd. The atmosphere was electric. The camaraderie? Unmatched. The sense of achievement? Off the charts! The tournament ran for a full seven hours, with six games played in total, but the adrenaline kept us going. What began as a modest getaway turned into one of the most memorable sporting adventures ever, and we brought the silverware home!

Harry Bradshaw
Email: harry.bradshaw@rocketmail.com



STANSTED IN BLOOM

We have not held this garden competition in recent years, due largely to the difficulty of finding judges with suitable credentials. We do, however, want to acknowledge the efforts that residents and businesses make with their floral displays, which add so much to the appeal of the village. We have therefore decided to acknowledge their efforts by distributing thank-you cards to properties that have been nominated for recognition. We are hoping that these cards will be displayed in front windows so the Anglia in Bloom judges can see them if they happen to pass by on judging day.

If there is a garden that really catches your eye, please nominate it in writing by emailing me; if you do not use email, you can leave a message at the Parish Council reception desk in The Exchange building at Crafton Green. Thank you.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 07739 428352
Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

We have enjoyed a series of engaging outings and events this spring. On 10th May, following our 3rd May Wartime Memorabilia Exhibition and the 80th VE Day anniversary, many members boarded a coach to the National Memorial Arboretum. Under perfect skies, participants took the guided land-train tour to familiarise themselves with the site before exploring peaceful woodlands and pausing at memorials of personal significance.

The Garden Group travelled to Myddleton House Gardens, Enfield on 12th May, to see the former home of self-taught plantsman Edward Augustus Bowles. The 1818 house, named for Sir Hugh Myddelton of New River fame, now houses the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. Restored in 2011 with Heritage Lottery funding and reopened by the then Duchess of Cornwall, the gardens were at their fragrant best, with wisteria in full bloom and early roses adding serene charm. Meanwhile, the Bus Pass Group set off on a sunny, breezy outing to the riverside town of Maldon. Members split into small groups, many reuniting for lunch at riverside cafés. Highlights included the historic High Street, moored Thames barges, the Thomas Plume Library's rare books and the intricate Maldon Embroidery depicting the town's history. The day ended with a leisurely sit in the sun, enjoying estuary views and friendly company.

Our monthly meeting is on **Thursday 17th July** 1.30pm for 2.00pm at St Theresa's Parish Centre. The City of London guide and historian David Williams makes a welcome return, this time to present the city's pioneering biodiversity policy, exploring its pocket parks, commons, woodlands, playing fields and Royal Parks. Visitors and prospective new members are warmly invited to join us.

Susan Sedgebeer
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

...with news of Councillor co-options, new appointments to run committees, developers' plans for Stansted and the nearby area, Skate Jam 2025, this year's firework display, grant awardee Uttlesford Community Travel, and the village's CCTV system

One shy of a full house

We are delighted to welcome two new faces to Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. At the end of May, the Full Council voted to co-opt **Jamie Gardner** and **Ryan Ackerman** as Parish Councillors. With a third co-option potentially in the offing, this would bring the number of Parish Councillors to 15 and mean SMPC would have a full chamber for the first time since elections in May 2023.

Mr Gardner is a chartered surveyor and has been a Stansted resident since July 2023. As a Parish Councillor he wants to help enhance the quality of life for people living here. In doing so he will be drawing upon his role as a chair of trustees for the Shoreditch Trust as well as an advisor to landowners in London, helping them to manage their endowments to benefit local communities. Mr Ackerman has held a variety of roles for Network Rail and is a long-time Stansted resident. He is interested in community safety, sustainable development and improving our open spaces. A third applicant wishing to join the Parish Council was to be invited to the Full Council in June before a decision on their co-option was decided.



Maureen Caton continues as chair of SMPC

Two new chairs of committees

At May's Annual Council Meeting, councillors voted unanimously to re-appoint Maureen Caton as Chair of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, a role she has held since 2014. Ayub Khan was re-elected as Vice Chair. Peter Jones replaced John O'Brien as chair of the

Finance & General Purposes committee. Tom Van de Bilt was appointed chair of the Open Spaces committee. For further details on the make-up of the Council's committees and working groups head to our website.

▶ stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/council-structure/

Planners' dreams

2025 shaping up to be a busy year for planning

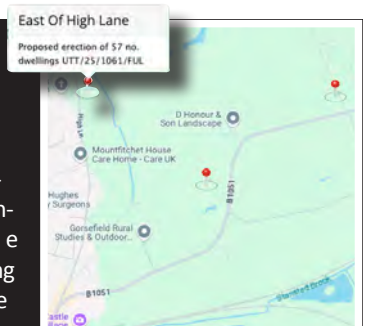
A scheme to flood a field off Forest Hall Road with solar panels is just one project that is raising eyebrows in the Council Chamber

There was plenty of planning cud to chew at the first Full Council of the civic year in May. In her report to Councillors at the meeting, SMPC Chair Maureen Caton highlighted not one, but three projects in and around Stansted that pose significant questions for the village. The first of these is Columbia Threadneedle's application to site solar panels on what is considered high quality agricultural land off Forest Hall Road. The solar farm didn't feature as part of Threadneedle's original plan to redevelop Stansted North. Concerns have been raised that glare from so many panels could constitute a safety risk for flights and for M11 motorists. The siting of 41,000 panels is also likely to do little for views of the surrounding countryside.

City & Country's plan to build up to 1,050 homes on green belt land is also on the Parish Council radar. If this goes ahead it threatens to merge Stansted, Birchanger and Stortford into one. An application has yet to be made with Uttlesford's planning department. SMPC is working with Birchanger Parish Council to get an update from Uttlesford

Village Applications Mapped!

You can now keep abreast of planning applications submitted to Uttlesford District Council by visiting the planning page of our own website. By clicking on the red lollipop pins on the map there, you can view a summary of a proposal and be linked to UDC's own planning section to read comments and accompanying documents.



Residents have three weeks to comment on an application. Pins will be removed once this window closes.

▶ stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/planning-applications

on the City and Country scheme.

The third plan the Parish Council is seeking clarity on is Bloor Homes' Walpole Meadows 2. The project to build 270 homes calls for the creation of a country park and would include closing Pennington Lane to through traffic. A planning inspector is calling into question the need for a country park. But what level of community funds will be delivered by the project if the park is to be scrapped?

Bloor Homes plan a country park at their Walpole Meadows 2 site



Growing concerns

Summer maintenance of village open spaces

At the peak of the growing season, finding out which authority cuts what and where is the cause of many a furrowed brow



The upkeep of green spaces around Stansted is shared between three local authorities, as well as property management companies, and private landowners. This patchwork of responsibilities can lead to a lot of head scratching in summer months by residents left wondering why, for example, one verge is trimmed while another nearby seemingly left fallow. We are more than happy to explain where boundaries for up-keep lie, whether you send in your queries on the subject via email, social media or our website. Feel free to pop into our reception at the Mountfiel Exchange for a chat if you prefer. We only ask that you refrain from approaching contractors working on site directly. This can delay them from the task at hand — cutting and strimming areas defined by contracts negotiated with SMPC. If anyone will know why they have been instructed to mow specific areas, it will be us, not them. So get in touch!

Anglia in Bloom 2025



Judges from Anglia in Bloom will be heading the village's way in July. As part of their tour of Stansted, they will be casting their eyes over many community assets maintained by the Parish Council including the Memorial Gardens, the hanging baskets and planters along Lower Street and Cambridge Road, as well as village gateways of Blythwood Gardens and B1383 roundabout. We would like to wish the best of luck to all the organisations and volunteers that feature in this year's AiB. A special thank you to Trevor Lloyd, the man behind Stansted's entry into the prestigious garden competition. Stansted was a Silver Gilt award winner in 2024. Can the village go one better in 2025?

August Bank Holiday Skate Jam



Great news for skate park users — a date has been confirmed for this year's Skate Jam. It is happening on Sunday, August 31st with Seann Thompson stepping in once more as compère and organiser. Full details in next month's issue!

No space for fireworks

Unfortunately there will be no repeat of last year's fantastic fireworks this autumn. Burnt Mill Academy Trust have received approval from the FA's Football Foundation to lay an astro pitch on the playing fields at Forest Hall School. The Trust are keen to get the project under way and their grounds will be unavailable to host a display in 2025. As there are no realistic alternatives for community fireworks in the village, we would like to apologise for disappointing residents by being unable to deliver a display this November.



Uttlesford Community Travel



From a small office on a fading estate on the outskirts of Dunmow operates one of the longest-running charities in Uttlesford. Set up by World-War-II RAF pilot and career civil servant Sir George Moseley, Uttlesford Community Travel has for 28 years ferried thousands of elderly, disabled or isolated people across the district to hospital appointments, social events, hairdressers, school and shopping trips, and pretty much everything else besides.

In so doing it is difficult to imagine a local non-profit that has had a bigger impact on community life in Uttlesford over the period. Last year alone, UCT took over 18,175 on group trips while its book-a-ride service tallied up to 9,138 trips. The charity's drivers clocked up over 152,739 miles — the equivalent of six times around the earth, as the charity's business manager Mick Bott states proudly. "We started out with just one bus," he adds. "Now we have six minibuses and 28 cars being driven by volunteers across 54 parishes."

UCT runs to a simple model. You sign up to either an individual or group membership. That gets you access to transport that is more reliable than a bus, cheaper than a taxi, and better suited to your needs if you are elderly or disabled and struggle to get about.

Helping Mr Bott keep the show on the road is the charity's director, Ian Shaw. "With a bus costing £88,000, the fundraising is never ending," he says. "The recent rise in national insurance contributions will affect us, but we can't raise prices like a business. Our clients just can't afford it."

In February, Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council approved a £2,500 grant for Uttlesford Community Travel. "They do brilliant work in keeping people independent, healthy and combating loneliness," says Maureen Caton, SMPC chair. "The grant is money well spent."

KEY SERVICE INFO

Uttlesford Community Travel's services are for organisations and individuals in Uttlesford

Become a member to book a ride:
Individuals (£12/year)
Groups (£25/year)

Rides are cheaper than private taxis & NHS transport, and go farther — to hospitals in London, for example

You can book for rides to get to hair cuts, the shops, social events, school trips & medical appointments

Unlike 2hr limits for NHS rides, drivers will wait to take you home after a hospital appointment.

Bookings from Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm. Need to call in advance, not on the day.

Contact Details: 01371 875787, 01799 519008, 01245 279052
info@uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org

CCTV system pole-axed!

Parts and pole needed following traffic accident

Trouble tracking down a supplier to replace a pole of the correct height delays repair of CCTV

Since a car accident in December much of the CCTV system operated in the village by Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council has been out of action. This is because a reception post on Cambridge Road was damaged in the accident, along with a CCTV camera and an Automated Number Plate Recognition camera.



The pole hit by a car in December

SMPC has been working with insurers to source a post and the necessary equipment. The height of the pole is proving a problem, as there are few suppliers currently who are licensed to fit a replacement of the right height. While this remains the case, SMPC is unable to satisfy requests for footage other than from cameras in Crafton Green car park.

Camera locations in Stansted

The CCTV system operated by SMPC covers the below areas:

- Crafton Green car park
- Lower Street car park (2 locations)
- The skate park (in the Lower Street car park)
- The Chapel Hill / Lower Street junction
- Cambridge Road (2 locations)
- ANPR cameras (2 locations) on Cambridge Road

Requesting footage

Local councils are obligated to implement data protection measures that align with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. These legal requirements mean we are only able to share footage of reported accidents and incidents with the Police or insurance companies. Also, footage is stored on the CCTV system for 30 days only.

Roadworks in July

Roadworks heading the village's way this month include **Lower Street/High Lane** where the carriageway will be closed for three weeks from 7 July to August 1st, **Stoney Common** (closed by Network Rail) on 18 July from 10am-2pm. The work by Affinity along **Grove Hill** is scheduled to end on July 3. Then there will be traffic lights to allow Open Reach to work on the road from July 4-8. Please note SMPC is not responsible for the timing or approval of roadworks. Such decisions are made by Essex County Council and National Highways.

For more information

► www.essexhighways.org/future-roadworks-map

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

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Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

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

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

Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Website: www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil

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

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tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held on Wednesday and begin at 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. To attend virtually, look for Zoom details in the agenda documents on our website:

2nd July Full Council

9th July Highways Sub-committee

16th July Open Spaces

30th July Full Council

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Ray GOODING

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Ray GOODING

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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

Meet-up Events:

Thursday, 3rd July (6-7pm) — The Mountfitchet Exchange
72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet

Thursday, 10th July (10am-12pm) — TouchPoint, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet

LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

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

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

ADVICE SESSIONS

Uttlesford Citizens Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 10am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during SMPC reception hours via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, July 3rd** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing, job training and support to overcome addiction

TOUCHPOINT, STANSTED

The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill up your larder for free. **Food shares** Stansted Social Club Wed 2.30-3.15pm, Thursdays Crafton Green 10am-5pm, Fridays 1-2pm Saturdays 10-11am; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-12pm; **Free hot meals** on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 9am-10am.

Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

GARDEN WASTE SKIP SERVICE

The parish-council funded garden waste service operates on alternate Sundays in the Lower Street Car Park from 12.30-4.30pm. **Skip dates:** 6th July, 20th July, 3rd August



Village Defibrillators

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

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BEES AND BUGS

It has been a very exciting summer this year so far, very much like during Covid 2020; a nice long sunny summer with many flying days for all the bugs, interspersed with enough rain to keep things green. After a huge flurry of swarms at the beginning of spring and summer, things have quietened down somewhat; however there are still the occasional swarms about. This time of the year the nectar flow seems to slow down; there are not as many flowers around as there were in late spring. I remember as a child whenever we had a road trip in summer, we had to pull over at a petrol station every few hours in order to squidge the wind-screen free of bugs. This is no longer required, so bug numbers are definitely down. If you would like to help, you can. All bugs need to drink so if you have a bird bath you can keep it clean and full of water. You can even use a shallow dish or pot base; but do add a few stones for bugs to land on to drink.

I have also taken the first honey this year; it was wonderful. If you are wondering about the hive in the picture, I use Eco Beehives, which are a little unconventional. These hives encourage more bees for bees' sake, rather than big honey production. It is more than enough for friends and family; it is also just a fun thing to do. Cheers for now, until next month.

Kevin Hancock
Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com



www.theharmonaireschoir.com

Come and enjoy a summer's afternoon concert celebrating classic arrangements from film, TV and musical theatre, including songs from *Game of Thrones*, *Hamilton*, *Greatest Showman* and *Les Misérables*. The event will be on **Saturday 5th July** at 3.30pm in Great St Mary's Church, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AJ. A truly beautiful programme, supporting local charity Isabel Hospice, is designed to lift your spirits. Included in your ticket price is a donation to the hospice which includes free drink and cake after the concert. Tickets are £10 available from our website.

The choir, which was formed 10 years ago by Musical Director Josie Cowley, is a tight-knit ensemble renowned for its exceptional performances and dedication to community enrichment. Based locally, this group of talented vocalists has garnered acclaim for their ability to capture hearts with their harmonious renditions of classic and contemporary choral pieces and is going from strength to strength, singing in cathedrals as well as performing fund-raising concerts locally. For more information please see our website.

Liz Jennings
Email: jenningselizabeth4@gmail.com

IN THE GARDEN

Herbs at Home

Every kitchen deserves homegrown herbs. Cultivated for thousands of years for many uses, such as medicinal and culinary, herbs are pollinator-friendly, and some can keep pests and diseases away from other plants. Herb gardens can range from formal Mediterranean spaces to a rockery, containers or windowsill pots. Sitting or walking near aromatic herbs calms the senses. Ideally, locate your herb garden somewhere with at least half a day of sun; herbs that share similar growing requirements can be planted together. Mediterranean herbs include oregano, thymes, sages, rosemary and lavenders. These enjoy full sun in gritty, free draining soil, the opposite of our heavy clay. Give them space when planting, otherwise they will compete for water and nutrients. Similarly, position the taller sage, rosemary and lavender behind lower-growing thymes, marjoram and oregano.



Leafier herbs need more moisture and shade. Mints and lemon balm are notoriously invasive; keep out of the ground and grow in separate containers. Umbellifers like angelica, chervil, cicely, dill, fennel, parsley and coriander can inhibit the growth of edible crops so are best kept away from vegetable beds. Some, especially fennel, can make attractive additions to ornamental beds. Grow umbellifers in rich, moist soil and part shade to prevent early bolting; running to seed turns the leaves bitter. Fresh basil is a versatile summer herb; it enjoys similar growing conditions to tomatoes, peppers and chillis, and its pungent aroma keeps them bug-free. The flowers of many herbs such as rosemary, calendula, borage and nasturtium are edible and can be added to salads or frozen in ice cubes to add to drinks.

Water your herbs throughout summer; this helps newly planted herbs to develop deeper roots for better drought tolerance. Picking regularly improves their shape and flavour. Online herb shops such as *Herbal Haven* in Rickling sell ready-to-plant herbs for home delivery.

Sian Lloyd
u3a Garden Group



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HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

As we move into the summer, the dawn chorus that has been echoing through the trees has begun to quieten down, as the birds are busy rearing their chicks. The butterflies are beginning to increase, along with other insects. Look out for the spectacular Red Poll Cattle which have returned to the forest and be sure to keep your dogs on a lead when walking nearby. Whilst enjoying your walk, if you come across a diversion, please follow it to help us to prevent further erosion and discover a new route.



July also sees the continuation of our summer season open-air theatrical productions. On **Saturday 12th July** at 6.00pm multiple award-winning *Illyria* will perform *The Wind in the Willows*. This wonderful play, based on the book of the same name, celebrates Kenneth Grahame's timeless tale of friendship, laughter, the longing for home and the lure of adventure. Tickets: adult £19, child £10. Advance booking is essential; see our website events section for details. The next two plays will be Lewis Carroll's *Alice Through the Looking Glass* in August and Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* in September. We hope to see you at one of our enjoyable events!

Hannah Underwood
Assistant Business Services Co-ordinator
Tel: 870678

Email: hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Our May meeting was a special celebration of VE Day. The tables were arranged in street party style with flags bunting and 1940s music. We had a VE quiz which was completed during the meeting and three hilarious games of *housey housey* as Bingo was called then. It was our pleasure to welcome Tony Wellings who had brought memorabilia from the 40s and 50s arranged on pairs of trays which had to be matched and a decision made as to what their use would have been. Some items were recognisable, some not so. The items ranged from a carrot corer, stove blackening brush, letter scales, a bottle from Green's Stores in Stansted and a rather barbaric implement for marking chickens after their sex had been determined. The items prompted much discussion and Tony was on hand to offer further information. Jenny Wraith was given a special mention and asked to give

a twirl to show off her very fitting 1940s attire which included a real fox fur stole that belonged to her mother.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 17th July** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. The speaker is Bill Hamilton, a retired BBC television newscaster. His talk is entitled *Man on the Spot*. The competition is *Something from your Garden*. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

By the time you read this, hopefully the warm sunny weather will have arrived! However, you can be assured that whatever the temperature outside, a warm welcome awaits you at *The Place on the Hill*. Take a stroll down Chapel Hill, or along Lower Street or Church Road and join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. If you would like to get out and meet people, we offer a safe and friendly environment for adults. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** and everyone is welcome. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is limited parking behind the church. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Musical Afternoon Tea at Down Hall

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Hall Hotel, Matching Road, Hatfield Heath CM22 7AS. Set within the beautiful surroundings of this historic estate, the event promises an afternoon of indulgence, live music and freshly prepared treats. It is the perfect way to spoil yourself and

enjoy time with friends and family, while supporting a wonderful local cause. Tickets: adults £45 or £53 with a glass of fizz, children 12 or under £22.50. Spaces are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment! You can book via our website or by contacting me.

Alison Cameron
Tel: 651908
Email: fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 1st July** at 8.00pm in The Dog and Duck, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. This is an autobiography detailing the highs and lows of Michelle's incredible journey from humble beginnings in the less glamorous South Side of Chicago, to the grandeur of the White House and life as America's first African-American First Lady. It takes the reader seamlessly through three distinct phases of the author's life, and is an inspirational, interesting and honest read. Have you read any good books you can recommend? Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com



RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

Our first event for July takes place on the evening of **Thursday 3rd July** at 6.00pm near the Queen's Head, Allens Green CM21 0LS. We will follow a pleasant walk of 5½ miles over mainly arable and open countryside. The route heads south to Hoskins then goes west past Fryars Farm, before reaching Bucklers Hall and Allens Green. Hopefully we will be blessed with a fine summer's evening for a pleasant walk and good refreshments at The Queen's Head.



Jono returns to Stortford

It was a sad day for local naturalists, independent readers and the host of his friends and contacts when Jono Forgham (see photo) left the area. He is missed greatly, but we have good news that he is returning as our guest speaker to end this year's programme on **Tuesday 8th July** at 7.30pm at Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA. Jono is a good friend of our group and is an informed, knowledgeable and entertaining speaker; this promises to be an enjoyable evening before our August break. For full details of all our activities please visit our website or contact me.

Peter Allen
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Rosie Brand
Tech Transformation Officer
Email: rosie.brand@essex.gov.uk



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We held our Annual General Meeting in late May. Thank you to everyone who attended and all those who volunteered to remain on the Committee for another year. We held two Thursday evening sessions in May; the first was a visit by the *Woodwind Band of Bishop's Stortford* who had everyone up and dancing as usual. The second was a games evening during which a competitive curling competition took place. For our next Thursday evening we will hold a summer party with a singer coming along to entertain us. As always, anyone interested in joining as a member or volunteering, please do get in touch.

Ellen Brooks
Tel: 07800 896516

Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

The Club has had another very enjoyable month. Doreen Robinson thrilled us with her displays entitled *Gone Fishing*, a celebration of National Go Fishing Day. Another highlight was a visit to Dorset to enjoy a workshop with Floral Demonstrator and six times RHS Chelsea Gold Medal winner Angela Turner. Angela runs a floristry school from her botanical workshop and is a wonderful teacher. Several members of our Club joined others from the area for this overnight trip. The following day we travelled to Salisbury Cathedral for their magical flower festival entitled *The Spirit of Water*. Over 30,000 blooms were used to create the most wonderful displays.



Created by one of our members in Dorset

On **Wednesday 16th July** we have a Club workshop. You might like to join us for our afternoon cream tea and mini floral demonstration on **Wednesday 13th August** at Ugley Village Hall. This is a really popular event but tickets are limited so please book ahead. Visitors are always welcome. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.



Sandra Honour
Email: sandra@thewesleys.net



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The topography, geology and fertile soils of the Hundred Parishes have combined to provide suitable conditions for farming. Currently, cereals cover about two-thirds of our arable fields with crops of winter or spring-sown barley, oats and wheat. Twenty percent of fields have been planted with vegetables or oil seed rape, which creates a lovely display as shown in the picture below; grasslands make up the remainder, providing forage for cattle, sheep or horses.



Inevitably the weather influences the success or otherwise of crops. This spring has been exceptionally warm, dry and sunny so there are concerns about a possible drought, reduced crop growth and lower yields. Some farmers started to irrigate vulnerable crops earlier than usual, and all are hoping for some more rainy days ahead, as plants need moisture to absorb the nutrients they require for growth. Healthy soils will retain more moisture; a number of farmers are planting cover crops beneath the main crop as this will help to reduce water run-off and leaching of nutrients. Leaving wildflower margins around fields encourages assorted predators that eat crop pests.

Many farmers diversify their activities to spread the risk: planting different crops, creating fishing lakes for anglers or converting barns for holiday lets or wedding venues. Some have been able to realise the potential of their south-facing fields, conveniently located over underlying chalk, to plant grape vines. Soils have been analysed, grapes carefully chosen, and now these winemakers are producing first-class sparkling English wines together with excellent red, white and rosé wines. Tours of some vineyards are an added attraction.

Walkers following routes from our website will appreciate the area's scenic beauty and rich agricultural heritage. Routes 127 and 161 pass vineyards and other unusual crops.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee
Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



June is always the key month for us. On a damp evening we welcomed the assistance of 24 youngsters from the Stansted Cub Pack. We had a busy schedule of activities lined up, but the rain certainly did not deter them. First up was planting magic beans; hopefully they will produce a tasty crop for Touchpoint later in the summer. The Cubs, with magnifying glass in hand, embarked on a bug hunt around our allotment, recording what they found along the way. Next task was to build the 5-star *Bug Hotels* pictured below.



We intend to keep the bug hotels on the allotment to improve the environment and increase biodiversity. All the Cubs then planted their own sunflower to take away to nurture and grow at home. One of the pack leaders, Hazel, commented that the Cubs had a great time! Special thanks to Steve Howard, who kindly donated magic bean seeds. Another thank-you goes to Jo Lorente-Chapman, who kindly donated tomato plants grown at her new local allotment. Yeomans Café has kindly been donating their eggshells, left over from the breakfast shift. Eggshells are an environmentally friendly combat against the slugs and snails; the Cubs were really interested in how the eggshells work. We are very grateful to the donations made from local businesses. We loved hosting the Cubs and will welcome them back any time. If you belong to an organisation which could benefit from such an event, or are interested in joining the team as a volunteer, please email Cathy at cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

All the children came back to school after half term refreshed and eager to have a great last few weeks of the year. Our Year 6 group had an amazing time on their residential trip to Norfolk. I was lucky enough to spend the whole week with them and it was the usual mix of lots of

fun, mud, pirates, swimming and food. A personal highlight for me was the walk to Blakeney Point where we spotted a seal and collected gemstones.

A quick reminder about our clothes bank. It is accessible during school hours to the whole community; all contributions must be bagged please. If you know anyone who has a large contribution but cannot get here in school hours, please telephone the school office and we will be able to help.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212



Stansted Tennis Club

Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Tournaments

Congratulations to Sandra Ayres and Clare Murfitt, who beat Fiona Pye and Gail Hogg in the Ladies' One Day Tournament on 11th April. Val Ashwood and Chris Bailey won the consolation prize. The Pearce Trophy was held on 18th May, when Marta Hensall and Rick Lim triumphed over John Stone and Louise Chalk in a hard-fought match winning 6-3. The consolation winners were David Murfitt and Catherine Gibby, defeating Daphne Lunnon and Grace Crossley 4-1.



Coaching

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

Fiona Kelly
Club Secretary

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
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Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
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BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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	Sierra Homecare Ltd	10		Do-It-4U	24		DPS Handyman Services	24
	Uttlesford Community Travel	12		Ray on the Hill	24		Finch and Son	OBC
Dental	Castle Dental	8	Soft Furnishings	Stort Blinds	IFC	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC
							Mowtivated	16
Electrical & Solar	CK Electrical Installations	24						
	Freeley Solar & Electrical	IBC						
Finance	Stigwood Financial Servies	8	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC	Tree Surgeon	Mowtivated	16
Fitness	Flexible Strength	8						
	Stansted Pilates	8						
Food & Drink	Nolaki Turkish & Mediterranean	IBC	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC	Tree Surgeon	Mowtivated	16
	The Cock Inn, Henham	18						
Funeral Services	Daniel Robinson & Sons	IFC	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC	Tree Surgeon	Mowtivated	16
	J Day & Son (Stonemason)	8						
	Victoria the Celebrant	8						
Furniture	DT Bedroom & Kitchen Designs	IFC	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC	Tree Surgeon	Mowtivated	16
	K&B Bespoke Kitchens	18						
Garden Services	Cammas Hall Farm	16	Tree Surgeon	Maskalls Tree Surgery	OBC	Tree Surgeon	Mowtivated	16
	D Honour & Son Landscapes	OBC						
	Greenscroft Fencing	16						
	Langthorns Plantery	16						
	Mowtivated	16						
Garden Services	The Secret Gardener	16						



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