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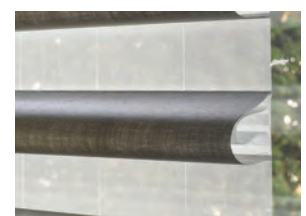
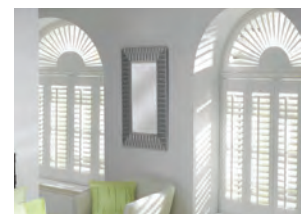
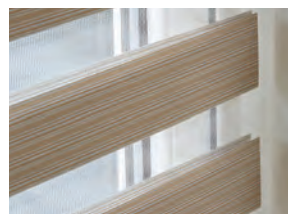
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Front cover

Lower Street Floods

By Dale Crowson

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JULY ISSUE

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

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

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EDITORIAL



Dale Crowson is to be thanked again for sending us this month's beautiful cover picture; talk about being in the right place at the right time! He was so lucky and clever to get that lovely blue sky, with a few clouds, reflected in the flood water. It looks, at first glance, as if the King's Arms and the pavement on the left are suspended above the water. Paul added his magic and we have a stunning June cover.

Continuing from the May edition and its emphasis on past times, we have a really great article on page 7 concerning the *Then and Now* of Stansted. We also look back 10 years to when the Magna Carta tapestry was made. Page 4 is dedicated to this all-important historical event and the beautiful embroidery which was created to commemorate 800 years since the Magna Carta was signed. The embroiderers worked their fingers to the bone, under the guidance of Leila Riddell, to produce this fascinating piece of work. As a complete contrast, we add a new animal to our list of contributors; not to be outdone by her brother Funky Chicken, Duck Doodles has sent us an enchanting short story and drawing of many little mice, see page 9. Duck is nine years old, her brother a couple of years older. What a talented family! Thanks to so many people who make this magazine so special: from the readers who send in lovely photographs to those who write great articles, and of course our advertisers, without whom we could not exist.

Ed



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

Lower Key Stage 2 recently enjoyed Greek Day in school. Everyone dressed up in a marvellous mix of bedsheets, costumes and ivy and gold headdresses. An outside events company came in to run various activities with the children. These included: using the oil from rubbing two olives together to light a candle wick; making silver pendants; designing and executing clay votives; making wax tablets and producing clay cups. In the afternoon, we divided up into groups and enjoyed some classical Greek dancing. We then gathered at the Theatre of Dionysus for a festival of Greek plays, including *The Death of Agamemnon*, together with a Greek chorus. Slaves served goblets of red or white wine (blackcurrant or orange squash) and the children feasted on a banquet of feta cheese, apples and bread. Through drama, story-telling and hands-on craft the children deepened their understanding of Ancient Greek life, including its art, democracy and mythology. The day was thoroughly enjoyable. The photo shows Edeigh making a clay votive, a temple offering to the Gods.



Well done to our year 6s for another fantastic effort during SATs week, and a huge thank you to Clare and our catering team who produced a magnificent and brain powering breakfast each morning of that special week. Please contact the school office if you would like to make an appointment to come and view our happy school.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

At the time of writing we have just finished a mini-heatwave and are now back to winter temperatures. Who knows what June will bring? 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

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



Kate Lynn from *Molten Wonky Glass* was the speaker at our April meeting. She told us about her very interesting journey to the creation of her enterprise with examples of her fused art. They were lovely colourful individual objects and were greatly admired.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 12th June** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when one of our members, Heather Cann, will be giving a flower demonstration and workshop. The competition is a pretty scarf. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241

At the time of writing, we have just finished our VE Day celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of WWII ending in Europe. The school has been decorated in bunting and flags, and throughout the day, pupils have worn non-uniform red, white and blue clothes where possible. They also had a special VE day picnic school lunch. Our Year 5 class had a fascinating visit from John Conder, who lives locally. He came to share his experiences of being a child in the Blitz in London, and later as an evacuee living a long way from his parents and family.



After school, we had the enormous pleasure of opening our new outdoor classroom, which has been purchased through the generous and dedicated support of our PTA. This was followed by songs from our school choir, to test out the new acoustics of the structure. We then had a range of refreshments, stalls, games and activities, as well as a bouncy castle and a very long queue for pupils to try to *beat the goalie*: our deputy headteacher, Brian Winstanley. The sun shone throughout, and everyone had a wonderful time. We now turn our attention to our *Music in the Park* event on **Saturday 5th July**; see separate article on page 6.

David Rogers
Headteacher
Tel: 813626

PAPER

I hope that I am not being foolish by making the assumption that you have come to be accustomed to paper as something that can be written on, folded, and wasted. If you do not know what paper is, I offer you my sincerest apologies. A relatively standard piece of paper, something that is between card and vellum, will be about a tenth of a millimetre thick (0.1mm). Consider that every time we hypothetically fold it in half, its thickness will double. So, after one fold it will be 0.2mm. With the fourth, it will surpass a millimetre, and subsequent to three more, its thickness just outdoes that of a centimetre. Now, I propose to consider these questions. How many times, if we started again, would you have

to fold a piece of paper in order to equal the height of Big Ben? What about to reach the Moon? What about the edge of the observable universe? Have a think. The answers are on page 19.

Funky Chicken



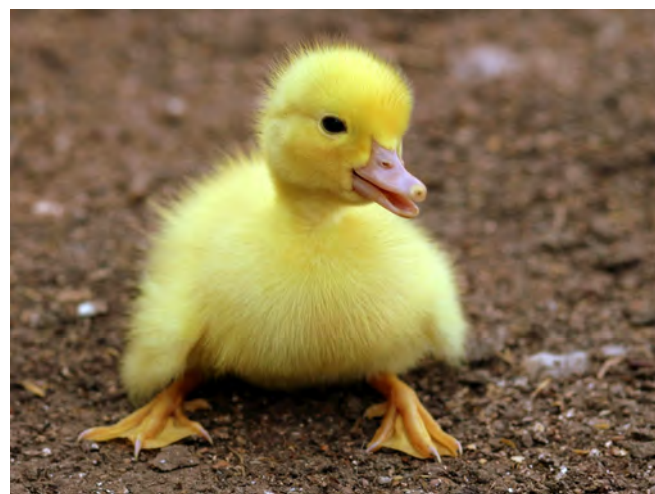
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www.daisymaysfarm.org

Our babies just keep on coming in all sorts of shapes and sizes, but what they all have in common is that they are really cute!! There is **so** much to do:

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- Cuddle the babies
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- Woodland Trail
- Ollie's Food Hut

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If you have a child's birthday coming up, why not have your party with us at the farm? Want a different kind of holiday? Then come and camp on the farm and enjoy the great outdoors and our animals at the same time. Book direct on our website. As ever, thanks so much for your continued support. You can find us at Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

THE MAGNA CARTA EMBROIDERY

Stansted's Link to the Past

After William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066, he granted his supporters parcels of land. Robert Gernon was gifted Stansted. At that time there were 11 villagers, 20 smallholders, three slaves and one priest. Richard Montfichet was the baron 150 years later, and John was the unworthy King who made his own decisions without support of his barons. A council of 25 barons was set up to address the issues with the King. Therefore, the Great Charter or Magna Carta was implemented to hold the King accountable. We are reminded of our baron as we enter Stansted from the north and south; his effigy greets us under the sign which reads **Magna Carta 1215**



In 2015, Stansted celebrated the 800th Anniversary of the Sealing of the Magna Carta. The History Society and the stitchers combined forces to produce an embroidery to tell the story. The middle panel features Baron Richard Montfichet, a nobleman from Normandy. The Montfichets were closely related to the family of William Rufus. He is depicted on the embroidery after he was killed by an arrow. The Montfichets were Christian folk who initiated the construction of St Mary's church in early 1100. The Augustinian Monks were given Thremhall Priory. Richard travelled to Rome; he was an athlete, and is depicted throwing rocks. During his absence King John had his castle burnt down. The final piece illustrates the Sealing of the Magna Carta.

In June 2015 the embroidery was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant. It was then on display at Stansted Hall, on the day of the Medieval Fayre. It was a glorious day, and we were entertained by, amongst others, Jousters, Morris dancers and a Falconer. The embroidery was displayed in St Mary's Church; in July, 1380 visitors came to view it. It then had a spell in Chelmsford library, and later in Saffron Walden museum. The embroidery then spent time in the sanctuary at The Arthur Findlay College until a permanent home could be found. Covid rather held things up, but it now hangs in the Peacock Surgery, at the top of the stairs. The Magna Carta Academy has its own facsimile.



Stansted is a very lovely village, especially around Lower Street with beautiful Tudor houses. The two outer panels show many of the buildings and some of the people who made their homes here.

Leila Riddell

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 3rd Jun

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

Snow by John Banville

A whodunnit set in the 1950s where we meet Detective St John Strafford who has been called to a Irish country house to investigate a mutilated body in the library

All Welcome Tel 813056



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6th & 20th Jul**

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South Mill Arts

*John Singer Sargent:
The Private Radical
by Gavin Plumley*

Guests welcome £7. Coffee at 10 am
Tel 656065 for more information

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

1	Sun	Windmill Open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
3	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
8/22	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
9	Mon	Link copy due in today	before noon
10	Tue	The Arts Society B S RSPB	South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
12	Thu	W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
15	Sun	Nature Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
18	Wed	Ugley W I Newport Flower Club	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm Ugley Village Hall 7.30 pm
19	Thu	Open Day USA Monthly Meeting	Arthur Rank Hospice, Cambridge noon St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
21	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
28	Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market S Walden Choral Society	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
29	Sun	Fun Afternoon S Walden Symphony	Forest Hall School noon - 4 pm Saffron Hall 3 pm



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 10th Jun

Bishop's Park Community Centre

**Peter Holden will present
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www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley



Stansted Evening W I

7.30 pm Thu 12th Jun
Touchpoint

*Flower demonstration
and workshop*

by W I member Heather Cann
Visitors Welcome



SAFFRON
WALDEN
CHORAL
SOCIETY

7.30 pm Sat 28th Jun

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

**Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture
Mozart Vesperae K339
Haydn Theresienmesse**

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3 pm Sun 29th Jun
Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

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Bliss Colour Symphony**

Adults £18 and £21, 18-25s £11
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NATURE DAY

11 am - 5 pm Sun 15th Jun
(last entry 4 pm)

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www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon

Sat 21st Jun

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Gone Fishing

Demonstrator
Doreen Robinson

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Plenty of free parking



Ugley W I

2 pm Wed 18th Jun
Ugley Village Hall

**Renoir's Three Sisters:
an introduction to two portraits
of three sisters**

Visitors Welcome
Plenty of free parking



www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

This year's festival is fast approaching. Come along to see *The Jjars*, *Goat Patrol*, *Indigo Star*, *JDS Acoustic Band*, *Polar Honeymoon* and our very own DJ Fran. As well as great music, there will be a BBQ, beer tent, bouncy castles, ice creams, sweets, novelty stall and face painting. It 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.



So, get out your festival gear and make your way down to this fun filled event. Whether you want to get up and dance or relax in a chair with a cold drink, we look forward to seeing you and we thank you for supporting our school. All the profits from *Music in the Park* go into the school PTFA funds which have recently funded a new outdoor classroom, as well as supporting the curriculum and paying for essential items for everyday use. We are always on the lookout for more sponsors, and you can sponsor everything from hot dog rolls to bouncy castles, or volunteer as a safety steward for the day. Please contact me if you can help.

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

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 3rd June** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, Lower Street, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *Snow* by John Banville. This is a whodunnit set in Ireland in the 1950s where we meet Detective St John Strafford who has been called to a country house to investigate a mutilated body in the library. The victim is a local Catholic priest, and the suspects all have a motive. This is a traditional detective novel with echoes of Agatha Christie or Poirot. 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



www.swchoral.org.uk

Accompanied by the East Anglia Chamber Orchestra, the society will perform on **Saturday 28th June** at 7.30pm in Saffron Hall. There will be two beautiful and contrasting religious works by Mozart and Haydn, each full of elegance. Mozart's Solemn and Confessional *Vespers*, written for the Archbishop of Salzburg in 1780, are scored with trombones and trumpets. The soaring and calm soprano solo *Laudate Dominum* complements energetic and animated psalm settings.

Haydn's *Theresienmesse* of 1799 is more intimate, featuring mellow clarinets. Written for the name day of Princess Marie Hermenegild (wife of Haydn's patron Prince Esterhazy), this late work is imbued with the composer's cheerful confidence in his Catholic faith. The Chamber Orchestra will also perform Mendelssohn's evocative *Hebrides Overture*. The concert will be conducted by Quintin Beer, with soloists Felicity Hamilton, Bernadette Johns, Benjamin Durrant and Jamie W Hall. Tickets: adults £16 - £30, under 25s £8.50 - £15.50 available from www.saffronhall.com or tel 0845 548 7650.



Sarah Ludlow-Elston



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

After the Easter Holidays the children returned to school dressed in red, white and blue and celebrated a *Best of British Day*. We started with a special collective worship, where we explored what it means to be British, and revisited our British Values. Each class then took part in a range of exciting activities, including learning about St George's Day and the legend of St George and the dragon. The children also found out about the Union Jack, its history, and the different flags and emblems that make up the United



Kingdom. They enjoyed making their own flags, and the morning ended with a fantastic St George's Day Parade around the playground; the children were full of energy and pride.

In the afternoon, the celebrations continued with activities inspired by British culture and traditions. Some classes even enjoyed a very civilised afternoon tea, complete with scones and finger sandwiches. It was a fun and memorable day that helped deepen the children's understanding of British heritage and got everyone off to a positive start for the summer term.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362
Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk

THEN AND NOW Part 1

I was born in Stansted over 80 years ago and have lived all my life here. I got to thinking about all the shops we used to have:

Silver Street

We had Miss Rose sweet shop, Deamers the newsagent, Windmill Guest House run by Tony and Pearl Wellings, Smiths cycle shop, Pearson's bakers, Nipper Player shoe mender, Choppings taxidermist, Childs wireless repairs, Mants sweet shop, Mascalls butchers and Linden House antiques.

Cambridge Road

Frank Bull's restaurant was here, but very sadly burnt down. There was B and R Electrics, Miss Kitson's shop, crammed with toys; Hawkins Accountants was a hairdresser. Over the road was the Co-op and a furniture store called London and Stansted. Mayhews had a garage here, next to the former Barclays Bank.



The photo above, courtesy of Janet Townsend, shows Greens Department Store which sold groceries and kitchen goods, ladies' and men's clothing; my husband bought his wedding outfit there.

Chapel Hill

There is still the old Fire Engine building, but it is now used to store council equipment; then there is the old Post Office (now a private house), and an undertaker called Mr Levy. Next to him was Ecclestone's chemists, and where the Tattoo shop is now was Prossers' chemists (where I had my first job). There was Pools (tobacconist and newsagent), and Mumfords groceries, which is now our Post Office. Opposite was Lloyd's bank; the current travel shop was Johnsons' electric shop which sold batteries and bicycles. It was taken over by Les Oldfield who sold household goods. Next door was a butcher's shop, then a gents' hairdresser, which became Felicity's, selling wool and silks. Barratt's café was lovely; it had a juke box. It is where the hairdresser is now. On the corner was another grocery shop called Miss Stacey's – she also had a music machine. Where the café is now was Stan's off license which was always busy!

Jean Chopping

We will continue Jean's reminiscences in the next issue, which will include Lower Street and Station Road. Ed

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the April draw:

£100	No 113	Juliet Lenton
£50	No 223	Ann Conroy
£25	No 12	Judy Lloyd

The draw for June will be held on **29th June** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson

Tel: 819062

Email: jean733@btinternet.com



SCOUTS

Stansted Scout Group held their annual *Renewal of Promise* service at St Mary's Church. The flag of St George led the parade into church followed by the section flags.




Mark Gerber, the group's lead volunteer, led the service and asked each section leader to lead the renewal for their own sections. A Scout from each section spoke about their past year in Scouting, what they had achieved and what they liked doing the most. Mark spoke about the group's history including the use of the Windmill and the dairy at Blythwood. Many stayed afterwards for tea and biscuits. Thank you, Lynda, for your help and Steve, for providing the music. See you all next year.

Mike Byrne

Team Leader

Email: stanstedscoutgroup@gmail.com

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Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy

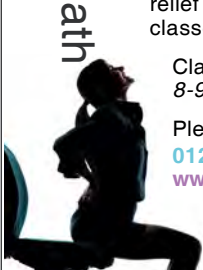


the osteopath

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

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

Classes held at: *The Quaker Hall, Chapel Hill.*
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Are you interested in joining us?

The flower arrangers at St John's Church would like people to join their team. We have a pedestal arrangement and a small vase in church each Sunday; you can choose which dates would be convenient for you and training can be given if necessary. There is a fund to pay for flowers. If you are interested, please contact me.



Susan Bone
Tel: 814052

MICE'S MIDNIGHT FEAST

Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong, Bong! Midnight had come and with it a shining crescent moon. The mice got out of their house in the humans' skirting board and trekked to the kitchen. The older ones carried the little ones so they wouldn't moan that their legs ached.



When they finally got there, some of the youngest curled up and fell asleep. Rose and Richard watched in awe, Tommy was filling up a thimble with water coming out of some sort of metal waterfall, which humans called a tap, and little Rosemary had brought an umbrella. Lily and Meggy were clutching the window and peering out at the night sky, the slither of moon reflecting in their eyes. Three of the strongest mice were hauling a bottle of milk. The little ones were clutching paperclips, grabbing sticky handfuls of sugar, cheeks bulging with cheese. Little Jane was in the teapot! Izzabelle and Katy were carrying eggs and Bert was in an egg like a duckling, yolk dripping from his nose. Reuben, Lucy and Martha were getting some wool and swinging on them, whooping with laughter. Luna, Opal and Tina were at a loose end so they did some acrobatics. The triplets, Stacy, Lilac and Adam were being held tightly by their older brother Richard because they had been making mischief, so they stood and watched Luna, Opal and Tina in awe. Poor Bob had a thorn in his finger but luckily Rachel was coming to his rescue. Mice were rolling candles, carrying a baguette, hauling grapes, collecting boxes of matches, lugging cereal boxes and so much more, the room was alive with squeals, squeaks, scampering feet and the flicks of tails.

Duck Doodles
Aged 9



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our April meeting was member Brigitta Clarke and her subject was *My Life Experiences*. They were certainly no ordinary experiences. She was born in East Prussia in 1937. Her father was sent to Crete two years later to fight in the war; apart from one brief spell of leave she and her mother did not see him again until 1948. Brigitta, her sister, and their mother endured a long eventful period involving barbaric treatment at the hands of the Russians, near starvation, escaping to Lithuania, living in a refugee camp in East Germany and ending up in West Berlin. They finally managed to reach Cologne where they were reunited with Brigitta's father in a reunion brought about with the help of the Red Cross. This brief account does very little justice to her very moving and inspiring talk, which I am sure will be one of the most remembered presentations in the annals of our Club. In fact one member remarked to me that it was one of the best talks we had ever had!

It was also the meeting at which Betty Francis, probably the longest serving secretary in our Club's history, stepped down from her role after 15 years. She is leaving the area to live nearer to one of her sons. We all wish her well; she will be very much missed. Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 18th June** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. The speaker will be a member of our Committee. The subject will be *Renoir's Three Sisters*: an introduction to two portraits of three sisters. Why not come along and join us for the afternoon? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922



Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 10th June** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts; coffee will be available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Gavin Plumley on *John Singer Sargent: The Private Radical*.



Whether drawing duchesses or portraying princes, John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) was high society's leading portraitist. With a consummate technique, his luxurious canvases mirrored his subjects' wealth. Yet beneath the veneer of works such as *Madame X*, *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* and *Lady Agnew* lurks a world which is much more raw. Sargent certainly scandalised Parisian society with his frank depictions of human sexuality; yet he was even more modern than they might have feared. This talk charts the artist's life and his prolific output, showing that, like the era he came to represent, Sargent was always on the cusp of seismic change. Come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed. Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation of £7, cash or cheque please. If coming by car, please also register your car registration number at South Mill Arts reception. Our membership secretary is Sue Chapman tel 508542, email: info@tasbs.org.uk.

Michael Fitch



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GUESS THE OBJECT 3 ANSWER

Last month's mystery object was a *larding needle* which is designed to push fat into meats for cooking, in a process known as larding. This is a very old technique for keeping meats moist and full of flavour during the cooking process, and in some countries, it continues to be used in recipes. Lard is the traditional choice of fat for this cooking technique, since it is cheap and readily available, although other rendered fats may be used as well. A related cooking technique, barding, involves wrapping meats in strips of fat, rather than forcing the fat into the meat.



A typical larding needle has a very sharp tip and a hollow body, like mine shown above. A strip of fat or lard is forced into the larding needle, and then the needle is pushed through the cut of meat to be larded. As the larding needle passes through the meat, it leaves the strip of fat behind. In a sense, larding could be viewed as a form of artificial marbling; lacing a meat with fat so that it will cook to perfection.

Tony Wellings
 Tel: 813614



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

Our Easter weekend open days were just after the repointing work was completed and the scaffolding removed. We had a constant stream of visitors over the Sunday and Monday with over 50 youngsters taking part in the Easter Egg Hunt.



Our picture shows Florence and Oscar Plant outside the mill after they had completed the Egg Hunt. We were very pleased that their Mum and Dad signed up the family to become Millers so they can now get free entry to the mill on open days for the rest of the year. They also received a mill guide book and *We Love Stansted Windmill* window sticker and all for just £10.00 for the whole family. We currently have a mixture of 50 families and individuals who have paid their subscriptions and are proud Stansted Millers, but we would love to

have more so please come to our next open day and sign up or contact us for an application form.

The Millers AGM took place on 7th May. The chairman's and treasurer's reports gave a very positive picture of what had been achieved during the past year; however they stressed the need to get more people involved in our work, so it was nice to see a few new faces at the meeting. We are now turning our focus to the Fête which is on Monday 25th August. If you are interested in helping please get in touch. We are also happy to take bookings from businesses that would like to have a stall at the fête. Our next open day is on **Sunday 1st June 1.30pm-5.30pm**.

Trevor Lloyd
 Tel: 07739 428352



Thanks to Alan Dean for this lovely photo of the mill.

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

The Club offers several different types of exercise activities for fun and to learn how to keep body and mind as happy as possible. Pilates, for example, takes place in St John's Hall every Thursday. Pilates' founder, Joseph Pilates, asserted it could lead to coordination of mind, body and spirit. This is quite a claim, yet following the guided breathing patterns, while becoming more aware of your body moving, brings about a decidedly good feeling. You are not expected to push yourself beyond what you can comfortably do; there is no competition. The class is arranged in the hall in a wide semicircle facing the instructor so you can concentrate on yourself and not worry about those in front or behind. Indeed, as with all the activities at u3a, the time spent together brings about a touch of fellow feeling.

There was plenty of fellow feeling in the Bus Pass group when they recently journeyed to the Warner Textile Archive, in Braintree (see photo). The absorbing museum, housing textiles used for coronations and in Buckingham Palace, was a fascinating experience. A walk in Bocking Park and visit to the market completed a rewarding day out in good company. Clever minds are clearly at work finding such stimulating places to visit on bus routes.



The same is true for the Gardening Group who sought the special kind of beauty created by the plants found at Ulting Wick near Maldon. This is the delightful home of the Burroughs. Blessed with a beautiful spring day when everything was bursting into life with joyous exuberance, the group relished the exploration of eight acres of borders, kitchen garden, pond and wildflower meadows, storing up lovely inward images to replay at will.

Julia Cook
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

April saw the start of our 2025-26 programme with our AGM. We said goodbye to two of our long-standing committee members but welcomed new ones and Club members alike. The meeting was well attended and after the official business we enjoyed a fun quiz evening with light refresh-

ments. In May, demonstrator Elizabeth Robertson returned with her talk on *Life's Rich Colours*.

We are looking forward to seeing Doreen Robinson and her displays with a *Gone Fishing* theme on **Wednesday 18th June**. We would love to see you there. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Sandra Honour
Email: sandra@theworsleys.net



RECYCLING



No more Spectacles

Unfortunately we are no longer able to accept spectacles for recycling. We have had a very good response over the past few years, so thank you to all those who donated. Please take your spectacles to **Specsavers** in Bishop's Stortford, who have a box for them just behind the till. They do not need cases.

We continue to collect foreign and old UK coins (**not** bank-notes) along with 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.

A reminder that there are two organisations which refurbish laptops or printers and donate to schools and charities; both will collect from you free of charge. Contact Cambridge Recycling Centre on 01223 473875 email: sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk or Townstech in Harlow tel 898240 www.townstech.co.uk. If you have Dell equipment, including monitors, you can recycle directly with them; go to www.dell.com and search for recycling.



Marion and Mike Dyer
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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

What better place than The Link, which draws together our local communities, to share the words below. Quakers have been made aware of them in a recent workshop focused on Peaceful Restoration of Relations, currently so much in human hearts and minds in the midst of the troubles of the world. Peaceful resolution-making and diplomacy, wherever one is, encompasses the use of the senses, especially listening to others and being heard oneself. We are all children of God with different gifts to be shared, stories to be heard and to be understood and put to good use when building communities and within existing communities and beyond. We can surely each benefit from wise advice and guidance sometimes. This seems to fit the bill:

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about; ask what is possible, not what is wrong; keep asking; notice what you care about; assume that many others share your dreams; be brave enough to start a conversation that matters; talk to people you know; talk to people you don't know; talk to people you never talk to; be intrigued by the differences you hear; expect to be surprised; treasure curiosity more than certainty; invite in everybody who cares to work on what is possible; acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something; know that creative solutions come from new connections; remember, you do not fear people whose story you know; real listening always brings people closer together; trust that meaningful conversations can change your world; rely on human goodness; stay together.

Heather Kent and Sue Moloney
Society of Friends



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.



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Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

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Email: stansted@brcdt.org

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6.00pm Mass

Sunday 8.30am Mass
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Wednesday 12.30pm Mass

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Baptisms: By appointment





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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 June

- 1st 10.30am The Worship Team - New Directions
8th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
15th 10.30am Rev'd Marcia Tull
22nd 10.30am Len Ward
29th 10.30am Rev'd Janet Tollington

Arthur Law

We were very sad to learn of the death of Arthur on 28th April at the age of 93. He had been a member of the Methodist Church in Stansted since he was first married. Arthur and his wife Janet, who sadly died in 1996, were part of a small group who kept the Methodist Church going for many years before the Deans, Richards and Dyers came along in the mid-70s. He was the treasurer for many years. Although unable to attend church in person since last Autumn, Arthur regularly listened to audio recordings of services and took an interest in church life. He will be greatly missed. An obituary will appear in a future edition of The Link.



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
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Associate Priest Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145
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Pastoral Assistant Kathryn West Tel: 816293
Mobile: 07880 602717
Email: kewest@btinternet.com

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

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

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

From St John's Registers

Funeral

4th April Patricia Elizabeth Bullock, age 96.
Service at St John's, cremation at Cam Valley.



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

My plans seem to change quite frequently. Easter Sunday morning, peeling loads of potatoes for a roast lamb family meal, with two small children wanting Nanny's attention, the phone rings. *Lynda, can you take a late booking for two champers and a dog ... tonight?* I explained that I was entertaining my family, but somehow I will do it. All went well and the couple had a wonderful stay and hope to do it again. A few days later I could hear someone playing the flute. I went over to church to see a man with his music pinned to the notice board, playing in the porch. I invited him inside the church and he played for me. Poul was from Denmark and a visitor at Stansted Hall. He came back again to play just for me, my own personal concert. Thank you so much Poul.



Sunday 27th April was *Renewal of Promise Day* for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. With parents, grandparents and all the children, we had over 160 people in church. There were some beautiful readings from them too as they told us about their year In Scouting. Some very happy memories made for sure, and reassurance that I can multitask!!



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474

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STANSTED IN BLOOM

The action group has been preparing Stansted's entry for the 2025 Anglia in Bloom competition. We hope to showcase some of the great community projects that make our village so special. The judging will take place from **7th-25th July**. There is a long list of projects we want the judges to see, so it is quite a challenge to fit them all into the two and a half hours allowed for their tour. Our route starts at the Touch-point garden at Crafton Green, followed by the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve and then the Windmill via the Bowls Club and the Rec. We walk through the memorial gardens into Lower Street to take in the splendour of the Social Club's floral displays.



After that we head for Elms Farm to see the Human Roots Community allotment and the Man Shed and Veg Shed projects. Finally, we make our way to St Mary's Church to see Lynda Dale who will tell the judges about the great work she has been doing with her volunteers to make sure the churchyard looks its best.

As we tour the village with the judges, we will also point out the hanging baskets and planters that the Parish Council contractors are responsible for, as well as some of the very attractive residential gardens that add so much to the Stansted street scenes. The judges allocate an extra 15 minutes to see any young people's projects, so we have nominated St Mary's school and Bentfield school, both of which have worked hard on gardening projects which deserve some recognition.

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



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

Our extremely well attended meeting on Thursday 1st May was the last of this season and comprised the AGM followed by a short film. It was opened by David Perry and this was his last official duty as chair as he has now stepped down. A vote of thanks was given to David for all his hard work. Peter

Saunders was elected president. He has been a member of our Club a long time and is the author of the book detailing a comprehensive history of Stansted entitled *On the Beaten Track*. The incoming Committee officers for the new season are: chair Roger Barrett, vice chair Rosalind Peck, secretary Keith Parslow and treasurer Ray Rogers. Other Committee members are Janice McDonald, David Perry, Leila Riddell and Vicki Thompson. Before closing the meeting, a tribute was paid to our long-standing member John Hollis, who passed away recently, and our sincere condolences were sent to his wife Janet.

We then watched a very interesting film showing the erstwhile train line between St Margaret's and Buntingford which was popular in its day but suffered, as so many small branch lines did, with Beeching's closure of thousands of miles of railway lines in the 1960s.

Edward Taub
Email: taub8jr@icloud.com



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 Free Church Hall which is warm and comfortable. All ages are welcome, although particularly suitable for children. The Fun Place is friendly and informal, where imaginative play is encouraged. The Pop-Up Tent is well used and floor puzzles are a favourite.



The children enjoy playing with all the toys and have plenty of space to run around, and enthusiastically join in the Sing-Along around 10.30am. Adults chat over coffee in a relaxed atmosphere. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and hot drinks and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park.

Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116
Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



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SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

Have you visited Stansted's stretch of the River Stort on the parish's western boundary? This is a beautiful but short section of the upper Stort which still retains a few gentle meanders, while up and downstream the river has been straightened to maximise surrounding farmland. It provides a glimpse of that special waterway, the chalk stream. Globally rare and as important as rainforests, chalk streams are found only in France, Denmark and England, with 85% of the world's chalk streams here in England. The Stort, which rises from springs near Langley, is fed by aquifers deep in the chalk bedrock, resulting in water that is remarkably clear and rich in nutrients and minerals. They can support a rich and diverse range of plant and animal species.



However, rivers are much in the news and England's chalk streams are not immune to the challenges our waterways face: pollution from agricultural and urban run-off; depositing of raw sewage; increased development and the rise in demand for groundwater. All have resulted in less than 20% of chalk streams classified as being in good condition, with none in the high quality bracket. The Stort is classified as being in poor-to-moderate condition so there is much to improve. Want to help? The two things you can do every day are:

- keep pollutants out of your wastewater; do not use products that are labelled *hazardous to aquatic life*, and use phosphate-free detergents
- watch your water consumption; reduce the water your toilet uses, search *save-a-flush* online.

Get in touch with us or look up The Rivers Trust at <https://theriverstrust.org/> to find out more.

Kate Allen

Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

PAPER ANSWERS

Big Ben would require a mere 24 folds. Does that blow your mind? Maybe you guessed near that. Well, allow me to burst your bubble, oh smug reader. What did you guess for the Moon? Anything in the vicinity of 45? Unless you excel

stupendously at mental arithmetic, I would bet that your guesses were greatly distanced from the answer, and you have probably been amazed by the puny size of these numbers. Consider that while we start small, doubling gets very big, very quickly. A fold could leap us from 45 million miles to ninety, from Earth to Mars to **the sun**. Oh, and by the way, the edge of the observable universe would be 91 folds.

Funky Chicken

BOULES AT THE ROSE AND CROWN

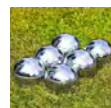
Our much-loved local, *The Rose and Crown*, hosted a lively and heartwarming celebration on Monday 21st April as it officially unveiled its newly built pétanque piste. The event marked the next chapter in what has become a growing local tradition, bringing residents together through the simple joy of French boules. The pub's pétanque team was formed just last year when it joined a regional league alongside other local venues. With a mix of seasoned players and curious newcomers, the group quickly became a hub for community connection. The opening of the new piste celebrates that success and paves the way for even more inclusive and sociable play.



On the day, the garden was filled with families, neighbours and visitors of all ages. Under clear skies, attendees enjoyed informal matches, delicious pub fare and a relaxed atmosphere. Many gave the game a go for the first time, discovering its charm and competitive spirit. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with residents praising the initiative as a fantastic way to reconnect people and create new traditions in the heart of the village. The piste will now host regular games and community events throughout the warmer months. This June, The Rose and Crown team will participate in a friendly cultural exchange with our French twin town, Rungis. The trip will include a series of pétanque matches and shared events with local residents, deepening ties between the two communities and celebrating a mutual love of tradition, sport, and togetherness.

Harry Bradshaw

Email: harry.bradshaw@rocketmail.com



Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

...with news of celebrations to mark 80 years since the end of World War 2, results of proposals for waiting restrictions along Bentfield and Croasdaile Roads, and a decision on the tree house at the Recreation Ground

Parking Consultations

Croasdaile and Bentfield scheme results

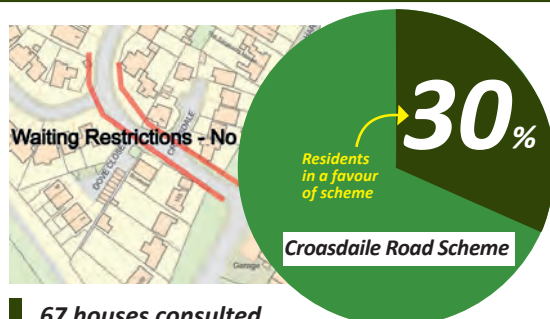
SMPC explores ways to overcome the 75% threshold set by local road body for the approval of waiting restriction schemes. Do bus routes offer hope?

In January consultations got under way in the village as part of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council's efforts to bring in waiting restrictions to parts of Croasdaile Road and Bentfield Road. Residents in these two places frequently complain that poor parking is posing a safety risk. This has prompted the Parish Council to seek permission from the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) to introduce no-waiting restrictions along Bentfield and Croasdaile Roads.

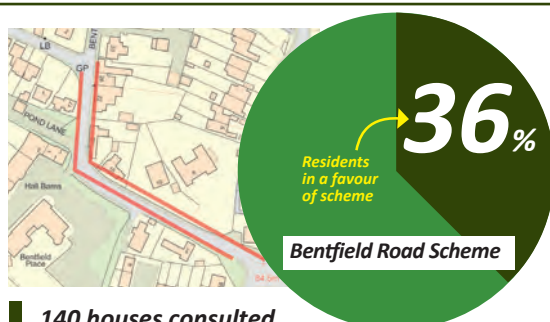
The NEPP is the organisation that signs off on applications for parking measures in north Essex. Since summer 2023 the NEPP has maintained that for any scheme to win approval it must have 75% support from the community that would be affected by its introduction. This has proved a very high bar. Rejected applications include a proposed '20 is plenty' scheme for the centre of the village, red lines on parts of the Mountfitchet Estate, as well as extra yellow lines for Lower Street and Spencer Close.

Bentfield and Croasdaile were two more proposals struck out due to NEPP's 75% rule. The consultations this January were an attempt to test the regulatory waters. Would limiting the consultation areas would improve the outcome? For this reason, letter drops were favoured over posts on social media, where more replies might be elicited but from people not directly affected by the schemes.

Despite these tactics, both proposals still won less than 75% support (see graphics). This isn't quite the end of the matter, though. In March we were notified that waiting restrictions on Walson Way were to become a reality after a bus company successfully proposed a scheme through the Passenger Transport department of Essex County Council. (The Parish Council's application for an almost identical scheme had been rejected). The NEPP believes a similar case could potentially be made for Bentfield and Croasdaile given that a bus route runs along these roads. Conversations with the NEPP and the Parish Council are ongoing.



67 houses consulted,
27 responses — 20 of those were in favour
of waiting restrictions



140 houses consulted,
56 responses — 50 of those were in favour
of waiting restrictions

Traffic works in June

Roadworks heading the village's way this month include **Bentfield Road** (closure: June 5-6 & 9-10), **Bentfield Gardens** (lights: June 16-17), **Cawkell Close** (closure: June 16-17), **Long Croft** (closure: June 6-7), and **Station Road** (closure: June 2-4). **Grove Hill** continues to be affected by Affinity Water's maintenance work on **Stansted Road**, travelling towards Elsenham. These works are set to end on July 3. 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

Community events to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day

St John's Church Hall found itself jam packed with Stansted's eldest (and finest!) residents on the first Saturday in May as they came out to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. The Afternoon Tea was a tremendous success and there are many people to thank:

Cllr Maureen Caton, chair of the Parish Council, spent weeks planning, booking, shopping, and making travel arrangements to ensure the event went off smoothly. Resident **Vini Watson** more than stepped up to the plate as part of the Events Working Group by helping to plan the celebration. Guests had Vini to thank also for sourcing the commemorative cake and assisting Maureen with the shopping for sausage rolls, cakes, drinks and supplies. He also found time to prepare a slide show and design the ratio books. Also on the planning front, a special mention for fellow Working Group member **Cllr Jo Kavanagh**, who helped considerably on the day, too.

The **troops from Carver Barracks** raised smiles and stirred memories with their uniforms and willingness to listen to recollection of the war, serving drinks and stamping ration books as they did so. The **Rockabellas** (AKA The Rockettes!) deserved every bit of applause from a highly appreciative audience who couldn't get enough of their classy choreography, stylish costumes and beautiful renditions of 1940s dance hall hits.

Uttlesford Community Travel did a brilliant job ferrying people safely to and from St John's. **The History Society & John Salmon** provided a wonderful pool of nostalgia with pictures of Stansted from back in the day. For gifts of beer and wine, our thanks to **The Kings Arms, Rose & Crown**, and **Stansted Social Club**. They kept glasses charged and people in good spirits. Lots of thank-yous also to the "**Ladies of Chapel Hill**" — Debs King, Sonia Levy and Anna Watson — who spent hours and hours making the sandwiches, and to **Christine Hope & the WI ladies** who made cakes and helped on the day.

For the brilliant table decorations and the balloon arch that greeted guests at the entrance, take a bow **Pippa Schofield**. **Emma Philbrick** and **Helen Presland** added balloon blowing to their CVs to help Pippa, but also covered everything from cooking and serving the food, setting places, running everywhere to offer assistance, as well as washing and tidying up at the end of the day — your hard work was much appreciated. For the bunting and helping to set up we have to thank **Cllrs Tom Van de Bilt, Allan Love, Anne Guney**, and also **Ayub Khan** for assisting with the clear up.



■ Residents came together again, this time in the Memorial Gardens, on Thursday, May 8th for a service commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of the war. Led by Revd Dr Colin Fairweather of St John's Church, the short service of prayers and hymns included the lighting of a beacon—one of many lit nationwide to mark the occasion.



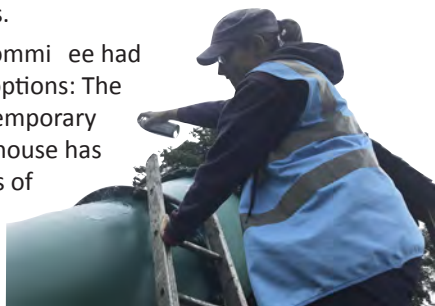
Time called on tree house

Search for a replacement gets underway

Councillors on the Open Spaces committee reluctantly decide to take down the treehouse at the Recreation Ground

As a coda to the piece on the treehouse last month, our Open Spaces committee took the decision that this much-loved piece of play equipment will be dismantled after the summer holidays.

Councillors on the committee had been mulling three options: The first was to pay for temporary repairs, but the treehouse has been plagued by acts of vandalism and since last summer its slide has been boarded up as the plastic had been smashed, leaving exposed sharp, jagged edges.



Removing graffiti from the tree house has become a regular task for our environmental rangers

The Parish Council has been waiting to hear if some of the repairs, for example to its wooden supports, could be covered under warranty. But even temporary repairs could cost £10,000 and would only extend the life of the existing treehouse, erected in 2012, by just a couple of years. Funding a like-for-like replacement could cost five times this sum. This places it out of range of suitable grants as the Parish Council has no funds to meet the conditions on match funding these would come with.

Reluctantly, the Open Spaces committee have taken the only realistic option — to dismantle the treehouse and begin the search for an alternative piece of play equipment. The good news is, SMPC has had significant success on this front in recent years. The prime example being the playground at Mountfitchet Green, where a zip wire, disability swing, picnic tables and football goals and basketball hoops have been fitted thanks to funds from the covid-era Welcome Back Fund. A consultation with the community will get underway once the Open Spaces committee has identified suitable alternatives to replace the treehouse and how they might be funded.

New recruits, step this way!

As we highlighted in the May edition there are 3 vacancies on the Council, and we are on the lookout for some fresh faces. The Full Council will be reviewing applications at its meeting on May 28th. If any vacancies remain after that meeting we will leave the door open for further applications. Becoming a Parish Councillor puts you at the heart of village life, whether that be putting on events like the VE Day Afternoon Tea, helping to improve our playgrounds or finding solutions to problems like fly-parking. If you want to find out more about how to apply and what being a parish councillor involves head to our website.

▶ stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/documents/co-option-pack-2025/

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS



Liberal
Democrats

Geoffrey Sell

Uttlesford District Councillor for Stansted North

Trust and confidence in Britain's system of government is at a record low. These are the findings from the latest British Social Attitudes report from the National Centre for Social Research. Seventy-nine percent say the system of governing Britain could be improved 'quite a lot' or 'a great deal', matching the record low recorded during the parliamentary stalemate over Brexit in 2019. The figure is up 18 points on 2020.

Counting the cost of council reform

I am concerned that decisions being taken will only make the situation worse. Together with my colleagues, we have raised our concerns regarding the government-imposed reorganisation of local government. This would see Uttlesford District Council being abolished and being replaced by a unitary council. This could either be a combination of Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford or, alternately, a combination of five local authorities.

The full cost of shutting down Uttlesford District Council could cost the taxpayer nearly £6 million. In Harlow council tax is more than £100 higher than in Uttlesford, and its housing stock is more than 9,000 houses built between the 1950s and 1970s which have not stood the test of time well, while Uttlesford's housing stock is 2,800. There is a real risk that Unitary local government will mean local government becoming more remote and more expensive.

Planning & Infrastructure bill

This Bill, which is currently going through Parliament, will shape the way we build housing, transition to clean energy and improve transport links. It should be an opportunity to create a sustainable future. Yet, while its ambitions—1.5 million new homes, 150 major projects, and the Clean Power 2030 target—are significant, it fails to provide the right solutions. Despite promises of planning reforms that support climate resilience and nature recovery, the Bill does little to tackle climate change or biodiversity loss. Instead, it prioritises rapid growth over environmental protections centralisation over local engagement, and developers over communities

Is a single police station enough?

The Essex Police desk, which is based at the offices at Uttlesford District Council in Saffron Walden, is set to close "at a date to be decided". It also means there will be one police station in the whole of the district. The closure was announced at a full council meeting at Uttlesford on April 22. The former police station in the centre of Saffron Walden was sold a few years ago for conversion to luxury flats. Stansted Airport police station will be the only police station where members of the public can go to. It is another public service that is becoming more remote from its users.

High Lane planning application

Bloor Homes have submitted a planning application for 57 dwellings. It will be decided by the UDC's planning committee. Further details are at [UTT/25/1061/FUL](#) | Proposed erection of 57 no. dwellings, (including affordable housing) formation of site accesses, open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure. | East Of High Lane Stansted

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

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

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

Reception: Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Website: www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil

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

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cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Tom VAN DE BILT | ☎ 07710426850

tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings begin at 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange.

If you wish to attend virtually, look for Zoom details in the agenda documents on our website:

4th June Open Spaces Committee

11th June Full Council

25th June Finance & General Purposes Committee

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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

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Meet-up Events:

Let's Talk Crime Prevention

TouchPoint, 72 Chapel Hill from 10am-12pm **12th June**

The Co-op, Lower Street from 12-1pm **12th June**

LIBRARY

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

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

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

ADVICE SESSIONS

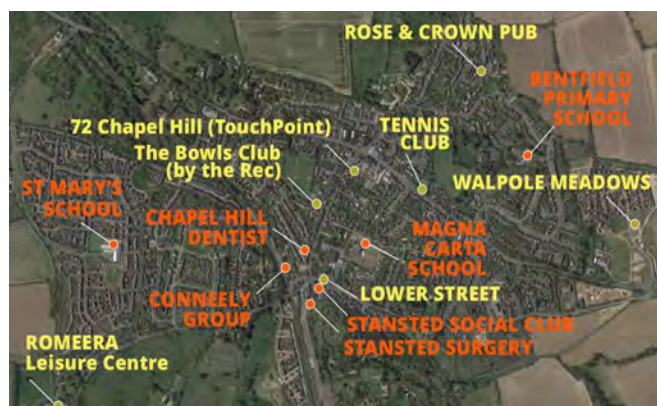
Uttlesford Citizens Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 10am-2pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during SMPC reception hours via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, June 5th** 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 Cra on 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:** 8th June and 22nd June



Village Defibrillators

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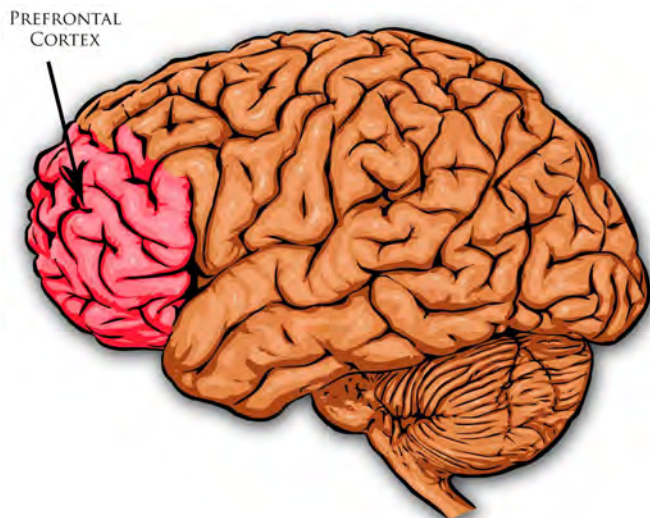
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BRAIN TRAINING

Executive Function. What makes us Human, part one

Most of what we do trots along on auto-pilot, but every so often stuff happens and we have to get out of our comfort zone and choose a response. In a large company, big decisions have to be made by the Board. In the brain, this is the *Executive Function*.



The board room is at the very front of the brain, in the gleaming *Pre-Frontal Cortex*, unique to our species. Understanding what this part of the brain does began with an accident that happened in 1848 to a railroad worker in America called Phineas Gage. He was a foreman, and whilst he was bending over checking an explosive charge, it went off unexpectedly and blew the tamping iron up through his mouth and out of the top of his head. He did not die, but for the first few years, his personality underwent a dreadful change. Previously he had been a hardworking, clever man, well-liked by the other workers. Now he drank, swore and womanised; he behaved like a child in his whims, changing his mind and being very difficult. As time went on, he did manage to recover his control and learnt to be sociable again. This behaviour sums up what our pre-frontal cortex should do: inhibit our base desires in favour of long-term interests, keep us focused on what we need to be doing, and resist rigid thinking. His eventual recovery of control also demonstrates how the brain can recover. Our brains are plastic and change throughout life, for better or for worse. Never give up on strengthening executive brain function.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07801 871929



RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley/

Our month starts on **Thursday 5th June** at 10.00am with one of our ever-popular midweek walks. We meet at Pishiobury Park, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9HP and will follow a 3½ mile route through an important area for wildlife with varied habitats, taking in Pishiobury Drive, the River Stort, Harlow Lock and Feakes Lock. Sawbridgeworth is close to the start and offers a variety of venues for refreshments.

For our meeting on **Tuesday 10th June** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA, we welcome Peter Holden, who has entertained our group on several occasions. He will present *Birds without Borders - protecting migratory birds* in which he considers the how and why of the amazing journeys birds take and ways in which we can protect them. Peter has worked for the RSPB for over 40 years, and was instrumental in developing and promoting the *Big Garden Birdwatch*. He has written many books, including the highly-acclaimed *RSPB Handbook of British Birds*.



We celebrate the summer solstice on **Saturday 21st June** with a visit to RSPB Fowlmere, Mill Rd, Royston SG8 6EZ starting at 6.00pm with an early evening picnic. This is followed by a leisurely wander through the reserve until sunset, to enjoy the birds making the most of the longest day. More information can be found on our website.

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



www.saffronsymphony.org

The orchestra finishes the season with a colour-inspired programme on **Sunday 29th June** at 3.00pm in Saffron Hall.



Gershwin's evergreen *Rhapsody in Blue*, played by Jill Morton, is at the centre of the programme, which opens with Torke's energetic *Bright Blue Music*, followed by Butterworth's very short pastoral tone picture *The Banks of Green Willow*. The second half features a rare performance of Bliss's masterful *Colour Symphony*.

Tickets: adults £18 and £21, 18-25 years £11, under 18s £6 available from www.saffronhall.com or tel 0845 548 7650.



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BROAD END RESIDENTS REVOLT

Scarlett winced as she crunched the gears yet again. If only she'd been able to use the school minibus; but she didn't think the head would approve of her using it to transport gran and her neighbours to take part in a protest. Outside her gran's cottage the elderly residents are patiently waiting along with an assortment of fold-up chairs and a wheelchair. 'Morning gran. Quite a good turn out.'

'We're all here apart from him at number four, who's probably still in bed, and Daphne who's got a hospital appointment. She's quite miffed at missing out on all the fun,' said Gladys gleefully. The young teacher suppressed a wry smile as she helped her grandmother into the hired minibus. Daphne is her gran's neighbour of many years, but the two friends are engaged in a constant game of one upmanship and take great delight in each other's disappointments. 'I hope we can get everyone in. I didn't realise there would be equipment to take as well as passengers,' Scarlett said nodding at the lady with the commode.

Gladys sighed and shouted, 'I told you Edna, you won't need that. There's a toilet just around the corner from the post office.' The old lady gripped the arm of the commode and stared defiantly ahead as Scarlett settled Gladys in the front passenger seat.

'There isn't room for it dear,' explained a slightly younger lady to Edna in more gentle tones. 'Let's get you onto the bus and I'll take this back inside.'

Eventually, with all passengers and their picnic baskets, sticks, fold-up seats and wheelchair safely aboard, Scarlett set off for the main post office in the next town. She couldn't quite remember how her gran had roped her in to this little escapade, but Scarlett is hoping it will be as enjoyable as the last outing her gran had organised, involving a certain young postman. Her face flushed at the memory. As they neared their destination the excitement on the minibus exceeded anything Scarlett had come across while transporting her young pupils. The noise level had risen considerably and it was with some relief that she came to a halt in the High Street.

As Gladys carefully negotiated the step down from the bus she heard someone call out,

'Over here ladies.' Looking up she saw Barbara, president of the Broad Bottom WI waving a clipboard. Seated at a table in the middle of the pavement looking as though she was presiding over a meeting instead of a protest, she's surrounded by handmade placards saying '*Hands off Broad End's Postie*' and '*Leave Joe Alone*'. Beside her are other members of the WI committee including Venetia, much to Gladys's surprise. After her temerity in recently organising a public event in Barbara's absence, without her knowledge let alone consent, Gladys had assumed that Venetia would be thrown off the committee for insubordination. Having helped her passengers alight Scarlett drove off to park the

minibus, and treated herself to a much-needed mug of strong coffee before returning to the melee.

Back in Broad End, Joe the local postie is delivering the last of the mail in his bag. Apart from the usual wave from the bloke at number four he hasn't seen anyone, which is unusual. Walking up to Gladys's door he sees that her windows are tightly shut, and even more unusually, the front door is locked. Scratching his head Joe wonders what's going on. He's accustomed to sharing a cuppa and piece of homemade cake with Gladys. She rarely goes out. Looking around the back to make sure Gladys hadn't succumbed to another fall in her garden, he finds nothing amiss. Slowly retracing his steps back to the van, Joe's tempted to knock at number four to see if he knows where everyone is, but the man isn't at his window now so he doesn't. Dejectedly, the postman climbs back in his van and drives off. This could have been his last delivery to the tiny hamlet and the residents who he's become quite fond of. Due to cut backs and a reorganisation Joe's been assigned a larger round elsewhere in the county. He's not looking forward to the prospect of changing his round. He knows from experience that delivering in a more urban area is much more impersonal. He'll miss his chats with the Broad End folk, not to mention Gladys's superb ginger cake.

Once home Joe looks through his phone. He's surprised at how many messages he's received including two from Scarlett. With slightly heightened colour he looks at hers first, hoping she's not pulling out of tonight's pub quiz. Not only is she a brilliant quizzier but Scarlett is all he thinks about lately. Her message is short. 'Have you seen this?' Puzzled he clicks on the link she's sent.

It's an interview from the local TV station. The reporter is standing in front of the main post office and behind him is a very noisy crowd. The camera focuses on someone Joe immediately recognises, Gladys, who shouts into the presenter's microphone. 'Broad End needs a regular postal service. We're all elderly and rely on the post. The last time our lovely postie Joe was away, important hospital appointments were missed because the letters weren't delivered in time.'

'We went days without any post at all,' added another familiar voice; Scarlett loudly backing up her grandmother. The postman's touched to see how many of the residents of Broad End and Broad Bottom are there waving their placards and chanting their support for him.

Completely bemused, he clicked on Scarlett's next message which read, 'don't think you'll be changing your round any time soon. Tell you all about it at the quiz tonight,' followed by a smiley face emoji. Joe offers up a silent prayer thanking Gladys and her neighbours who never fail to surprise him. He dabs at his damp eyes before rushing off to get ready for the quiz, and more importantly, Scarlett.



Yvonne Ayres
Stansted Mountfitchet u3a Creative Writing Group

June Entertainment

Starting on **Thursday 5th** at 7.00pm, seven-time BAFTA Award-winner Steve Coogan plays four roles in the world premiere stage adaptation of Stanley Kubrick's comedy masterpiece *Dr. Strangelove*.

On **Friday 6th** at 7.30pm, *Dad's Army Radio Show* brings Perry and Croft's classic BBC comedy to life in this highly acclaimed stage production. Complete with sound effects, vintage music and all your favourite Perry and Croft characters and catchphrases.



ABBA Forever returns to the stage on **Saturday 7th** at 7.30pm. With dynamic non-stop choreography, stunning visuals, top-class musicianship, and an all live performance, the show captivates audiences from the opening refrain to the final sing-along chorus of this two-hour spectacular.

We are hosting auditions for our *Junior and Senior Panto Ensemble* on **Sunday 15th** 1.00pm-3.30pm. Do not miss this exciting opportunity to join the Junior Chorus in this year's magical pantomime production of *Snow White*.

Join us for the *International Film Festival* on **Tuesday 17th** and **Wednesday 18th**. Discover the bold generation of avant-garde artists who emerged in Japan during the 1960s with *Japanese Avant-Garde Pioneers* on Tuesday 17th at 11.00am; then at 8.00pm we are screening *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl*, an emotionally-charged Bemba-language comedy drama about the need to call out wrongdoing. On Wednesday 18th at 11.00am join us for the wondrous animated journey of *Flow*, which follows a courageous cat and its new friends after their homes are devastated by a great flood. Also on the 18th we are screening *Vermiglio* at 8.00pm. In 1944, Vermiglio is a high mountain village of the Italian Alps where war looms as a distant but constant threat. For more information about everything that is happening here this season, please see our website.

Seren Stephen
Tel: 710200

Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk

We know that being outside is good for our wellbeing, both mental and physical. Besides the open countryside, we are fortunate to have parks and gardens where we can walk, sit and enjoy nature. I will mention just a few.

Bridge End Gardens in Saffron Walden (see photo) was created in the 1840s by local businessman and Quaker, Francis Gibson. They are now managed by Saffron Walden Town Council. Delights to explore include the hedge maze, rose garden and Dutch garden. The **Gardens of Easton Lodge** in Little Easton have limited opening hours; see their article on page 29. They were designed by Harold Peto in 1902 for the Countess of Warwick, who lived at Easton Lodge. In Sawbridgeworth, **Pishiobury Park** was redesigned by Capability Brown in the 18th century as an enclosed park. It is a registered *Historic Park* and includes wet woodland, grazed fields, an oak walk, meadows and part of the River Stort.

Birchanger Wood comprises 69 acres of ancient coppiced woodland, managed and owned by the Birchanger Wood Trust. Three miles of all-weather, wheelchair-friendly paths make it easy to explore. In Stansted, the **Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve** is a 25-acre woodland with six man-made ponds. It was originally part of the park and garden of Aubrey Buxton's house. He was a co-founder of the World Wildlife Trust and donated the land to Essex Wildlife Trust. Today you can enjoy circular walks passing the ponds through the wood.



June is the month when many private gardens open to the public, including groups of gardens in Duxford and Ickleton; details appear on the What's On section of our website. We hope you enjoy the summer and explore some of our wonderful parks and gardens.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

June is another special month at the gardens. Last year was the first for our wildflower spiral in the walled kitchen garden and it was a mass of colour, changing through June from orange to red. We are looking forward to seeing how it will flower this year; it has successfully self-seeded into the path, so hopefully the seedlings in the bed will also do well.



We also enjoy the wildflowers elsewhere: orchids, yellow flag irises and, my favourite, the grass vetchling on the bank in the Glade, followed by the foxgloves then the poppies. There are lovely trees to enjoy, such as the false acacia and the Judas tree.

The waterlilies open in the Italian Garden and if you are lucky you might catch the voodoo lily with its fascinatingly vulgar shape and unique smell. The roses start to look really spectacular, and need deadheading regularly, the courgettes come on stream and we have the first soft fruit pickings; so jamming starts!



Except for 26th June, when we are closed for our AGM, we are open every Thursday 11.00am-3.00pm. Visitors enjoy chatting to our volunteers while they work and can buy our plants, fruit and veg for their supper.

On **Sunday 15th June** 11.00am-5.00pm, with last entry at 4.00pm, we have our *Nature Day*, with a range of activities for all the family including bug hunting and pond dipping. Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB will be with us. There will be facepainting and stalls and our volunteers will be providing refreshments. Booking in advance saves £1 per adult and children are free. See our website for details.

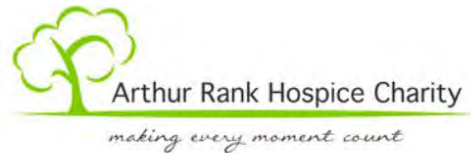
Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01371 876979
Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

For our April meeting, everyone took part in some Easter crafts with painting, colouring and embellishing of wooden eggs to display. There were some very creative designs demonstrated by all. Our next evening will see a visit by the ever-popular *Woodwind Band* of Bishop's Stortford. 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



www.arhc.org.uk

Open Day

When hospice care is first mentioned to patients, it can be natural for them to feel apprehensive. This is why we hold regular open days for anyone to visit. We offer a number of services, including *Living Well* which supports people with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition.



Not all services are for end of life care; we are keen to send the message that we are there to also support a good quality life, whether it be at the hospice in Cambridge, the Alan Hudson Centre in Wisbech or in people's own homes. One of our patients, Jane, said that we provided her pathway of treatment and emotional support, shared her down days and laughter, wiped her tears and supported her family. She told us how she appreciates that we are always on the end of the phone for the smallest niggles or the daftest question. To book onto our open day on **Thursday 19th June** at noon, please email: fundraising@arhc.org.uk or tel 01223 675888.

Virginia Goode
Communications and Engagement Officer
Tel 01223 675876
Email: virginia.goode@arhc.org.uk

IN THE GARDEN

A Summer of Roses

June is typically the month when even the most neglected rose reveals its beauty, but how do we keep our roses blooming through to the autumn? Roses grow well in nutrient-rich, moist soil with good drainage and plenty of space. Like all plants, healthy roses can shrug off disease fairly easily; careful companion underplanting with bulbs, lavender, salvias or marigolds can contribute to rose health without crowding their roots. The biggest cause of poor flowering is lack of sunlight; unless bred for shade tolerance, roses need at least six hours of direct sunlight per day.



Water regularly; soak the soil but avoid spraying the leaves, as this can encourage fungal disease, which kills the leaves and weakens the plant. It is never too late to add two or three inches of mulch to reduce evaporation; compost is preferable to bark chip. In addition to a balanced feed in early spring, use Tomorite or a rose tonic fortnightly during summer to promote reblooming, but sparingly, especially in very hot weather.

Deadheading spent flower heads throughout the summer encourages more blooms by preventing the energy-consuming development of rosehips. Snip the stem off just above the nearest full set of leaves. Floribunda roses produce clusters of blooms on a single stem; remove individual spent blooms above the cluster join; then snip the main stem back once the whole cluster has finished flowering.

Most rambling roses only flower once; a glorious display of blooms becomes a colourful display of hips; prune each stem down to three or four buds in late summer. Most climbing roses have thicker, arching stems; prune back and tie in any dangerously wayward growth.

As with all roses, always remove any diseased, dead or dying material but leave the main pruning and remedial work until long after your roses have provided many months of summer pleasure.



Sian Lloyd
u3a Garden Group



Our volunteers start young. During the Easter holidays, the volunteers and some of their families met up at the Human Roots allotment for a really fun session. It certainly proves that age does not matter; we have volunteers in their 80s as well as parents who sometimes come along with their children.

Everybody loves to muck in. Daniel (pictured) and Sam came along. Sam is not in the photograph as he is a bit camera shy. They both dug and planted our last batch of potatoes. Daniel already knew the ropes as he had planted some the previous week. He was keen to give young Sam some friendly direction on how to earth up when planting potatoes, whilst proudly showing off his muscles. We certainly have future gardeners in the making with these two. Well done lads!



Our home-grown plants from seed are coming on nicely, and expectations as usual are high; hopefully we will soon be planting like crazy on the plot. Watch out Touchpoint, you may get some huge supplies come harvest time.

Following the great news of the funding allotted to Human Roots from Essex County Council's Initiatives Fund, we have already purchased and planted several fruit bushes, and plan to erect a special fruit cage next. We are really keen to share the bumper harvest of fruit within the community; we may sample a few as it is great to pick and eat at the same time.



We are planning to hold some local community events soon, where attendees can get stuck in with activities arranged by us; details to follow. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested, please email Cathy at cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geoff.lay@ntlworld.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Cub Scouts (Tue) Age 8-10½	Huskies Charlotte Graham char.huskies1ststansted@yahoo.com (Thu) Bulldogs Hazel Crundall 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs:@gmail.com	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
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Uttlesford Support Group	Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Gill Pursglove Tel: 814242 or 07966 506997 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		

Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like your organisation to be added please let us know by emailing editor@stanstedlink.org.uk.

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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