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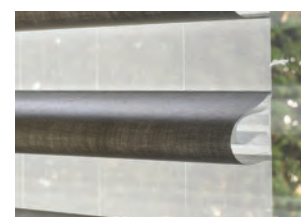
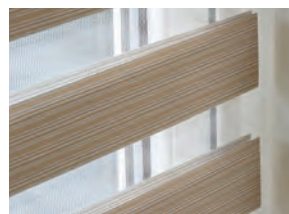
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Front cover
Silly Signs
 by Ken McDonald
 Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE APRIL ISSUE

Please email editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by noon on **9th Mar**. 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



Our front cover reflects the frustration and confusion felt by all Stansted drivers these days. Many thanks to Ken McDonald for spotting this and for sending his photograph for us to use. I have been having a wry chortle at a sign at the bottom of Chapel Hill, mentioning that the road was going to be repaired from 6/2/25 until 10/2/25, with the duration being listed as 2 days ... huh? You will see many other contributions from Ken in this issue; he was a speaker at the History Society, see p7, and he sent us a most interesting 100 Parishes article relating to old brewery buildings in the local area, see p19. Thanks so much, Ken. Please see p21 in the Stansted Network pages for further news on road repairs.

Gardeners will be glad to see the return of *In the Garden* on p13. Thanks so much to Susan, Sian and Anthea for getting together and organising this. The Link team was very pleased to receive an article on behalf of Sustainable Stansted from a younger writer, Alexander Scott. If any other young people would like to contribute an article or photograph to The Link, we would love to hear from you. Our *Fun and Games* section is becoming quite varied these days, with *Guessing the Object*, the *Caption Competition* as well as a welcome return of the *Quiz*; thank you to Tricia Bromley for your latest and most enjoyable Quiz on p7. Finally, I would like to mention the *Lent Talk*, see p4. David Morson is an unforgettable speaker and his talk will doubtless be fascinating.

Ed



www.musicatstansted.co.uk

The last of this season's concerts is on **Saturday 22nd March**, at 7.30pm in St. John's Church. Saffron Walden-based concert pianist Siu Chui Li and her husband Alex Redington (first violin of the world-famous Doric Quartet) are artistic directors of the Linton Concert series.



They recently invited several friends to join them in forming a flexible chamber cooperative which they named the *Vela Ensemble*. Their original Stansted debut had to be postponed, but we are now looking forward to hearing them; Siu and Alex will form a piano trio with American-born

cellist Bartholomew La Follette. Bartholomew has lived in England since the age of 13, studying first at the Yehudi Menuhin School and then the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. All three musicians have busy international careers as soloists and chamber artists as well as being keen to support local musical initiatives such as *music@stansted*.

Their programme will include piano trios by two strongly contrasting but equally well-loved composers: Brahms and Fauré. A more unusual piece will be the *Duo Sonata for Violin and Cello* by Ravel, and a number of favourite works for each of those instruments are also being planned. Tickets: adults £15, concessions £12, under 21s free, available on the door. There will be interval drinks. We look forward to seeing you there.

Richard Allaway
Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk

BRAIN TRAINING

Tight Shoulders and General Squeeze

Here is something simple to help tension in the head, neck and shoulders. I call it the general squeeze:

1. Lift your shoulders up high into your ears. If it does not make you dizzy, look up and give everything a good squeeze
2. Now calmly let the shoulders sink back down and resume looking forwards
3. Really let those shoulders settle nice and broad around your armpits. Subtly tuck your chin in
4. Repeat.

This is usually extremely effective. It uses *Muscle Energy Technique*. When a muscle contracts firmly, and then relaxes, in the immediate aftermath, the muscle relaxes more than it was before the squeeze happened. This is particularly the case with all the muscles around the head, neck and shoulders. It is good to take advantage of the relaxation and stretch the muscle or, in this case, muscles. Simplest is to tip and turn the head to one side and/or the other. Try not to be too vigorous in stretching. Many muscles will reflexively tighten up if stretched too strongly to prevent themselves being torn off their ends. It is important to let the shoulders settle calmly. If the squeeze is suddenly released, so the shoulders plop back down, those pesky muscles will really tighten up to keep your arms in their sockets.

There are many muscles around the head, neck and shoulders; both front and the back they all party together, hence why squeezing and releasing the lot of them helps. Of course, only one or two may be playing up, but you would expire from boredom if I listed all of them and their actions!

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET U3A

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

The increased provision of comfortable seating was necessary for the first general meeting held at St Theresa's Parish Centre, when a record audience of 107 gathered to hear a personal account of one of the RAF's most daring World War II missions: the raid on Amiens Prison, often referred to as *Operation Jericho*. The following Saturday the first seminar of 2025 took place in the same venue.

Our next Saturday seminar on **8th March** is entitled *Rockets and Spaceflight*. The speaker, Professor Tony White, is an Emeritus Professor of Systems Engineering, Middlesex University and is a member of our u3a. The seminar will start with the history of rockets from their invention by the Chinese to the rocket pioneers in the 20th century, moving on to the rise of amateur rocket groups in the 1930s and the massive expansion during WWII. Tony will cover post-war delivery systems, the moon shots and manned spaceflights along with a comprehensive explanation of rocket propulsion.

A wonderful collection of short stories has been published by our Creative Writing group. *After the Twa Corbies and Other Stories* contains a fascinating pot-pourri of styles and genres from surreal to the ridiculous. Loss, love, mystery, nostalgia and humour are all included. The limited edition of 100 copies was so popular that it sold out by last Christmas; however, the book is available in the library for those who were unable to purchase a copy. Having negotiated any difficulties in producing their first book, the group is intending to publish a second in time for next Christmas. With even more stories, it promises to be just as sought after. Will there be a third? That remains to be seen!

Susan Sedgebeer

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 4th March** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, when we will be discussing last month's book choice *Regeneration* by Pat Barker, which can be considered both a pro-war and an anti-war novel. Triggered by memories of her grandfather's stories about his experience in WWI, Barker's tale begins in 1917 as Dr Rivers, an army psychiatrist, is treating shell-shocked soldiers. Under his care are the poets Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen. Rivers' job is to make the men in his charge healthy enough to fight. Yet the closer he gets to mending his patients' minds the harder becomes the decision to send them back to the horrors of the front. Have you read any good books you can recommend? Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056

Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

STANSTED EVENING W

The speaker at our January meeting was Karen Odonaga; she introduced us to her involvement with crafting as well as with Chelmsford Museum. She has a great sense of humour, and we all empathised with her description of measurements! She showed us what a Suffolk Puff is and how to use it with small petals made from scraps of material to turn them into fabric flowers. She wowed us with many examples and generously gave us lots of material for us to create something ourselves. We look forward to seeing some lovely creations from our members at the next meeting on **Thursday 13th March** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when our speaker, Brian Carline, will be telling us about *Dolly Blue and Izal*. The competition is *Anything in Glass*. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

At the end of last year, we celebrated the birthdays of two of our helpers, Willy (left) and Steve, ably assisted by our young visitors. Willy's special birthday cake was made by his wife Sue, another of our helpers, and comprised 81 squares arranged in nine rows of nine; no prizes for guessing his age!



Please come and join us on **Friday mornings, including school holidays**, from 9.15am-11.30am in the Free Church Hall. All visitors are welcome. Children enjoy playing with the toys, have plenty of space to run around, and join in a 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. All ages are welcome, although it is particularly suitable for children, and the Free Church Hall is warm and comfortable. Why not come along for a couple of hours and help save on home energy costs? There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



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

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN ROBINSON

28th November 1936 - 7th January 2025



It is with great sadness that we need to let you know that our dad, John Robinson, of Long Croft, then Cambridge Road, has passed away. He absolutely loved being part of village life, from spending hours on his allotment in Pennington Lane with us, to managing NatWest bank for so many years, originally at the airport, then in Lower Street. He used to attend the Parish Council meetings so he could keep abreast of developments in the village.

His great love was being an integral part of Stansted Football Club, especially his roles as chairman of both the Junior and Senior football teams; the day Stansted won the FA Vase in 1984 was a particularly historic one for him. He also loved watching the village cricket matches and was proud to be vice chairman of that committee, as well as chairman of the ground committee of the Sports Association. Village sport was a massive part of his life for so many years. We were so grateful he had those connections which he could rely on after the passing of our dear mum Ruth in 1989. After retiring from NatWest, he worked part time at the Jet garage and volunteered at Home Farm Trust, where he loved passing on his gardening advice to the residents each week.

In later years he enjoyed being chairman of the Mountfitchet Seniors Club and following that he loved the company of fellow pensioners at the Over 60s club and other residents at Norman Court. We used to hear all about his friends' stories from those weekly sessions. We would be most grateful if you could share this sad news as he knew so many people in the village and his wishes were to be remembered to every single one of them. He wanted to have a *celebration of his life*, rather than a wake, so absolutely anyone who would like to pay their respects or come and tell his family an amusing anecdote, is very welcome to pop into his home, 98 Cambridge Rd on **Sunday 6th April** from noon to 4.00pm. In addition to this, dad will be mentioned at the 9.30am Service in St John's Church that morning if anyone would like to attend. Thank you so much in advance for coming to see us to celebrate dad's life.

Jane and Paul
Email: gibbo439@gmail.com



LENT TALK

Churches Together in Stansted invites anyone, whether associated with church or not, to a talk I am giving on **Wednesday 19th March** at 3.00pm in the Free Church Hall entitled *Why Did Jesus Die*. Refreshments will be served at the beginning and we will finish by 4.30pm. There is some free parking behind the church. We look forward to seeing you there.

David Morson
Tel: 850209



HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

This winter we have kept a small number of red poll cattle grazing the forest into the spring. The extension of our conventional grazing period is an attempt to counteract the rapidly encroaching scrub species that engulf the wood pasture. These are thriving due to the warmer autumns and winters we are now experiencing. Grazing into the winter also makes up for a lack of availability of appropriate cattle during spring and summer.



We have a new coppice site in *Hangman's Coppice* in the northwest of the forest. We have created a new scrub site bordering the Flitch Way on the northern boundary and are restoring a wood pasture habitat lost to years of encroachment of species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and bramble. We will be widely communicating the work in these high-profile areas to raise public awareness of our conservation efforts and bust that age-old question of *why cut a tree down to preserve a forest?* We have a new ranger and assistant ranger involved with various work parties in the wood pasture, marsh and coppices, as well as taking part in chainsaw and woodchipper training. If you are feeling chilly and have a wood burning stove or fire, please contact us to place your log or sawn timber orders and support our ongoing conservation work. You can find further information about the forest on our website.

Hannah Underwood
Assistant Business Services Co-ordinator
Tel: 870678
Email: hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 4th Mar

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

Regeneration
by Pat Barker

The tale begins in 1917 as Dr Rivers, an army psychiatrist, is treating shell-shocked soldiers

All Welcome Tel 813056

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 11th Mar

South Mill Arts

The Culture of the
Elizabethan Court
by Alison Baker

Guests welcome Entry £7

Coffee served from 10 am

Tel 656065 for more information



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 11th Mar

Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA

We welcome **Bethany Tomlinson**
who is an

RSPB Conservation Officer

Visitors welcome, entry £5

Tel: Peter 07876 295456

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

2/16/30 Sun	Green Waste Skip	Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
4 Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
6 Thu	History Society	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
9 Sun	Link copy due in today	before noon
11 Tue	The Arts Society B S RSPB	South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am
13 Thu	W I	Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm
15 Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
	St Patrick's Race Night	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
19 Wed	Ugley W I	St Theresa's Parish Centre 7 pm
	Churches Together Talk	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
	Newport Flower Club	Free Church Hall 3 pm
20 Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	Ugley Village Hall 7 pm
22 Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market	St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
	Music@stansted	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
	S Walden Choral Society	St John's Church 7.30 pm
25 Tue	Ugley Hall Coffee Morning	Saffron Hall 7.30 pm
27Thu/28Fri	Water Lane Theatre Co.	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
29 Sat	Water Lane Theatre Co.	South Mill Arts 7.30 pm
		South Mill Arts 3 pm and 7.30 pm



www.uglevillage.org.uk

10 am - noon

Sat 15th Mar

Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs

Fish ~ Beef, Pork, Lamb

Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam

Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare

Local wine ~ Plants

Knitting and Needlework ~ Crafts

Refillable Laundry and

Edible Products

Refreshments and Free Parking

For info and future dates tel 814052



ST PATRICK'S RACE NIGHT



7 pm Sat 15th Mar

St Theresa's Parish Centre

High Lane

First of eight races at 7.15 pm

Nibbles & Bar

Tickets £2

Please reserve by email with
davidmorson20@gmail.com



7.30 pm Thu 27th, Fri 28th Mar
3 pm and 7.30 pm Sat 29th Mar

Secondary Cause of Death
by Peter Gordon
at South Mill Arts

Tickets: adults £19, conc £17.50

Sat afternoon all at £17.50

www.southmillarts.co.uk tel 7102000



Windmill Fund-Raising Quiz Night

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 5th Apr
at Stansted Bowls Club

Tables of up to eight

Raffle & Bar

Bring your own food and nibbles

Tickets £5

from Trevor Lloyd tel 813871



Why Did Jesus Die?

a free talk by David Morson

3 pm Wed 19th Mar

Stansted Free Church Hall
Chapel Hill

Refreshments from 3 pm

All are welcome

Free parking at rear of church
tel 850209 for more details

Ugley Village Hall
www.uglevillage.org.uk

COFFEE MORNING

10 am - noon Tue 25th Mar

Coffee • Tea • Cakes

Bring and Buy • Raffle

Proceeds towards upkeep of the hall

Free Parking ~ All Welcome



7.30 pm Sat 22nd Mar

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Aaron Copland *Old American Songs*
Leonard Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*
Samuel Barber *Agnus Dei*

Tickets: Adults £13 - £25, u 25s half price
from www.saffronhall.com
or tel 0845 548 765



7.30 pm Sat 22nd Mar

St John's Church

Vela Ensemble

Programme includes works by
Brahms, Fauré and Ravel

Tickets: adults £15, conc £12
under 21s free. Pay on the door



RSPB

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

Our month begins with a midweek walk on **Thursday 6th March** at 10.00am near The Crown, Elsenham CM22 6DG. This is a five-mile route crossing Stansted Brook and heading East to Brick End and Pledgdon Green before returning to The Crown where refreshments can be taken.

For our meeting on **Tuesday 11th March** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA, we welcome Bethany Tomlinson. She is an RSPB Conservation Officer who visited us in October and she will be presenting *The RSPB and Operation Turtle Dove*. Sadly, turtle dove numbers in the UK plummeted by 99% to an all-time low in 2021, but thanks to Operation Turtle Dove which is dedicated to turning the fortunes of this special bird around, their numbers are increasing. The photo below shows the turtle dove and is from rspb-images.com.



Many of you may have read of significant changes to our local RSPB reserves at Rainham Marshes and Rye Meads. Both are open as usual and on **Sunday 23rd March** at 10.00am we plan to visit Rainham Marshes, New Tank Hill Rd, Purfleet RM19 1SZ. This is an outstanding reserve and a great place to see wildlife with its complex of wet grassland and ditches, together with grassland and scrub. One of the significant changes made by the RSPB is that the café and shop are now permanently closed. However the reserve trails, car park and toilets are open as normal.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

By the time you read this, Club members will have been out for a meal at Little Easton Manor which will be a great chance for everyone to catch up and enjoy a tasty dinner. For our March get-together we will be looking forward to playing bingo which is always highly competitive! 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



UGLEY VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING

To celebrate Village Halls Week we are having another of our coffee mornings on **Tuesday 25th March**, 10.00am-noon. We hope to have the usual well-stocked bring and buy stall, grand raffle and refreshments with home-made cakes. Proceeds go towards upkeep of the Village Hall.

Do come and join us for a relaxing morning.



Susan Bone
Tel: 814052



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Tony Wellings was the speaker at our January meeting; his subject was bygone household items, and to accompany his talk he brought with him a wonderful array of items. A laundry case which held a wash board, a posser (for squelching the washing – see photo), a very flat iron and a pair of goffering irons for lace. There was also an item with a local connection: a large sheet of brown wrapping paper with a label from the original Bon Marché store in Bishop's Stortford. Next was a housemaid's bucket containing essential items such as a tin of dubbin, some zebra grate polish, a donkey stone for whitening doorsteps and another local item, a milk bottle from K A Levey's farm at Bentfield End. Then came a shopping basket which contained a gas mask in its holder, cinema programmes from the Regent and Phoenix Cinemas, a sugar bag and a bill from Sparrow's of North Street, Bishop's Stortford dating from 1911. Other interesting items for us to view included a delightful papier-



mâché glove box, glove stretchers, ink-stand, lorgnettes, pince-nez, a stick of sealing wax and finally a Victorian invention for keeping long skirts out of muddy paths!

A fascinating afternoon ended with the judging by Tony of an unusual domestic bygone, the winning item being a poker stand, and the runner up a scale for weighing eggs.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19th March** at 2.15pm in Ugley Village Hall. The speaker will be Olwyn Smith. The mysterious title of her talk is *My Unusual Career*. Why not come along and discover what it was? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

CAPTION COMPETITION RESULTS

I am sure everyone is desperate to hear the results of last month's caption competition. My expectation was to see something like *It's a dog's life*, but your contributions were much more interesting. Less interesting is some doggerel that was generated by my online pen-friend Mr A Eye.



*In Stansted's heart, two dogs did rest,
Curled in a basket, feeling blessed.
By the castle walls, they gently lay,
Dreaming of fields where they'd run and play.*

Now for the results ...

Winner

- Suki is saying to Coco: 'Haven't you ever heard the expression "Let sleeping dogs lie"? Well, you have now.' submitted by Kathy West

Runner-up

- Suki is saying "This is MY bed. Don't even think about it!" submitted by Sarah Ludlow Elston

Thanks again for your humorous entries. Suki appears to have had the last word.

Mike Dyer
Chairman
Stansted Link



It has been suggested that you might like to see how the two dogs solve the sleeping arrangements these days, now that Coco has grown up.

Ed

QUIZ

- Flower type that the vanilla pod comes from
- David Bowie song that is the title of a TV series set in the 1970s
- Number of stars on the US flag
- Hardest natural substance on earth
- Rarest blood type in humans
- Writer of *Carrie* and *The Shining*
- Most expensive spice by weight
- Height of baby giraffe at birth: 4, 5 or 6 feet
- Aurora Borealis is better known as
- Number of balls on the table at the start of a game of snooker
- Year of the Watergate break-in
- London borough that Wembley Stadium is in
- Name of Sherlock Holmes' elder brother
- Gallery that contains the Mona Lisa
- Year the premier league started.

Compiled by Tricia Bromley

Answers on page 28



www.swchoral.org.uk

Memories of America

The Saffron Walden Choral Society will be singing a variety of American compositions on **Saturday 22nd March** at 7.30pm in Saffron Hall. The programme includes:

- Aaron Copland *Old American Songs* and songs of American folk tradition
- Leonard Bernstein *Chichester Psalms*. By combining Hebrew texts and Christian choral traditions in a commission for the Chichester Festival, Bernstein was implicitly issuing a plea for peace in Israel during a turbulent time in the young country's history
- Samuel Barber *Agnus Dei* set to his sublime and uplifting *Adagio for Strings*.

American songs to make you smile! The conductor is Richard Carr, with soloists Angharad Rowlands and Anna Phillips, and Graham Instrall on harp and percussion. Tickets: £13-£25 available from the Saffron Hall website www.saffronhall.com.



Sarah Ludlow-Elston




STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

Our speaker in February was Ken McDonald, who took us on a journey to many local churches in a talk entitled *Another peek inside some Hundred Parishes Churches*. Ken has been a member of the History Society since it was founded and is Secretary of The Hundred Parishes Society which covers over a hundred parishes stretching across approximately 450sq miles in Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. His talk was illustrated by more than a hundred photos, taken inside 30 churches, including some that are rarely open to the public, such as Ugley, Great Waltham and Radwinter.

The parish church is often the oldest building in any settlement and some are a thousand years old. Over the centuries most have been endowed with all kinds of interesting features such as colourful wall decorations and stained glass windows. Corbels supporting roof timbers have been carved, as have elaborate screens that separate nave from chancel, while the reredos, the screen behind the altar, is often a feature of great beauty. Most churches contain fascinating memorials to the great and good from centuries ago. We saw dragons, usually at the wrong end of the sword of St George, and a variety of royal coats of arms. Angels peering down from ceilings may sometimes be hard to see, but can come to life with a decent zoom lens. After this most illuminating talk Ken answered several questions from the floor. Our next meeting, which will be given by David Morrison, is on **Thursday 6th March** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. Details of the Hundred Parishes Society can be found on www.hundredparishes.org.uk and you can read this month's article from them on page 19.

Edward Taub
Email: taub8jr@icloud.com



Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy

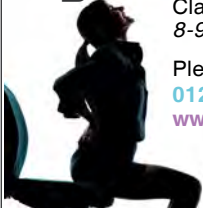


the osteopath

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STANSTED PEOPLE

MELVIN CATON

Melvin's father ran a chain of grocery shops in the Essex/Herts/Cambs borders area including one in Stansted which he took over from Greens of Stansted on Cambridge Road in 1962. In spite of the fact that he was a very successful retailer, he discouraged Melvin and his brother Malcolm from getting into the grocery trade. Melvin was an academic lad, became a boarder in the Junior Boarding House (Grimwade) at Bishop's Stortford College and stayed on to study for A-levels. He remembers getting in trouble in 1966 when he and some pals skived off Speech Day duties in order to watch the World Cup final on black and white TV. He also recalls the occasion when the Queen Mother came to visit in 1968.



Melvin obtained a BSc in Environmental Sciences from Salford University and an MSc in Management Studies at Loughborough University. In 1976, while Melvin was studying for his masters degree, his Dad had a heart attack and was no longer able to work; so Melvin did in fact return to the grocery business, and remained at the Stansted store until the lease ran out in 1981. He continued in the grocery trade in Great Shelford, married Maureen, had their first child, moved into their current house on West Road and first got elected to Uttlesford District Council (UDC), all in the early 80s.

He won a local district council by-election in 1983 as the SDP/Liberal Alliance candidate, when Peter Clark, the previous Liberal councillor stood down. He was one of the first SDP councillors elected in the country. When the two parties merged later, they became the Liberal Democrats. Melvin initially served on UDC for 15 years, including a period as the leader of the (then) LibDem group. At the 1995 elections, the LibDems became the biggest party on UDC. He stood down from the council in 1998; but got re-elected upon his retirement in 2019 and was again leader of the LibDems on UDC for a period until 2023. Melvin was elected to Essex County Council (ECC) in 1993 representing the Stansted division. In 1997 he fought the Saffron Walden seat at the General Election for the LibDems, and came second behind the Conservatives.

In 1998 Melvin made a career change and started work as a manager for St Alban's City Centre. He then worked for a com-

pany set up by Essex County Council to encourage businesses to use recycled materials in their products and processes, later taking on a similar job for the South East England Development Agency based in Chatham, Kent, doing a one-hour commute there and back. The Coalition Government wound up this agency in 2011. Melvin's final job was as a Town Centre Manager in Hertford, until he retired in 2016.

Melvin's father was a keen village cricketer and as a boy Melvin used to go and watch him play. He now thoroughly enjoys watching Essex County play cricket and is hoping to go to Sydney for the Ashes in 2026. He is a great traveller; in his youth he sailed a yacht from Antigua around the Caribbean, and hiked through Thailand, based at Chiangmai on the border with Myanmar. Another adventurous holiday was sailing a felucca down the Nile; he slept overnight on the beaches bordering the river. More recently he and Maureen have travelled to South Africa, and found Cape Town very impressive geographically. They took the funicular railway up Table Mountain, which was a totally fantastic and stunning experience. He and Maureen have visited Singapore and done the essential: they drank a Singapore Sling in Raffles! They loved seeing New England in the Autumn of 2001, but then went on to New York City and he can still recall the dreadful smell of cordite in the air, following the appalling attack on the city in September 2001.

Melvin still has a keen interest in local affairs, but he and Maureen also have an extensive and expanding bucket list of other places they wish to visit including New Orleans for the Jazz, Sri Lanka and the Far East including Vietnam and Cambodia.

Ed



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

Unfortunately, the repointing work at the mill was delayed due to a combination of meteorological and medical factors but we are very much hoping work will have been completed and the scaffolding removed by the end of February. If so, we will have to do a major spring clean as the dust has got everywhere.

Our next event is a fund-raising Quiz Night on **Saturday 5th April** 7.30pm for 8.00pm in the Bowls Club. Tickets £5, available from me; tables of up to eight. There will be a raffle and a bar. Bring your own food and nibbles. Our first open days of the year will be on Easter Sunday and Monday when there will be an Easter Egg hunt for our younger visitors; further details will be in the April Link. We are always happy to welcome groups of children or adults to the mill so please email us at info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk if you would like to arrange a visit.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 813871



Dance for Dementia

Thursday 20th February, 5pm - 7pm

Join us for a fun, dance evening, which will offer attendees a chance to reminisce as well as stimulation of the brain through movement. Our team will also be on hand afterwards to offer support and guidance on how to live well with dementia.

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FUNKY CHICKEN GOES TO THE OPERA

Gilbert and Sullivan, admittedly and undeniably, comprise one of the greatest artistic duos ever forged, with one of their most notable works being *The Pirates of Penzance*. This article serves not as an original work but as a reminder of the frequently-missed lyrics forming the second verse of *I Am The Very Model Of A Modern Major General*, as sung by General Stanley. Here are those words in their most complete and wondrous form:



*I know our mythic history, King
Arthur's and Sir Caradoc's,
I answer hard acrostics, I've a
pretty taste for paradox,
I quote in elegiacs all the crimes of
Heliogabalus,
In conics, I can floor peculiarities
parabolous.
I can tell undoubted Raphaels from
Gerard Dows and Zoffanies,
I know the croaking chorus from
the frogs of Aristophanes,
Then I can hum a fugue for which
I've heard the music's din afore,*

*And whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense
Pinafore!*

*Then I can write a washing bill in Babylonian cuneiform,
And give you every detail of Caractacus' uniform,
In short, in matters ve-ge-tab-le, animal and min-er-al,
I am the very model of a modern major ge-ner-al!*

Funky Chicken
Aged 11

FROM THE ROCKY ROOSTER

Dear Editor

I had a chuckle at Funky Chicken's observations last month regarding unhealthy word combinations in modern English.



However, I also felt a bit chastened as my wife and I often gulp down our brunch while sitting at the chable in our kitchen-diner whilst using, not sporks but splades! We find they shovel, cut and spear our churgers very successfully! Yours

Rocky Rooster
Age 76
Email: ragtimeband@gmx.com



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Take on a challenge for Grove Cottage

Looking for a challenge in 2025 such as a marathon or cycle ride? Whether it is your first time or you are a seasoned pro, you could make it even more meaningful by raising money for Grove Cottage. Please check our website for upcoming events.

Rebuilding Grove Cottage Update

If you have passed 151 London Road recently, you will have noticed exciting progress on the Grove Cottage rebuild; the foundations are set. We are appealing to the community to help us raise the final funds needed to complete and furnish the building, ready for its grand opening later this year. The support we have received so far has been incredible.

- **Grants and Contributions:** Support from grant-making organisations and large donations from generous individuals have been pivotal to the project's success
- **Corporate Support:** We are thrilled to announce our first Gold Corporate Partner, Alisped UK Ltd
- **Virtual Bricks:** We have sold an amazing 427 virtual bricks! If you would like to leave your mark on Grove Cottage's future, it is easy to get involved. Visit www.grovecottagebuyabrick.org.uk or email us if you would like to buy a virtual brick.

Why a Scout Volunteered for Grove Cottage

Jessica, a local Scout, shared her inspiring experience of volunteering for Grove Cottage as part of her journey to achieving the Platinum Chief Scout Award and why it meant so much to her. She said she was excited about contributing to such a meaningful cause, and hoped it would be an opportunity to learn and grow. The team made her feel so appreciated and welcomed, creating a warm, tight-knit community atmosphere. She said that her experience was so positive that she cannot wait to volunteer again! If Jessica's story has inspired you, why not get involved?

Alison Cameron
Email: fundraising@grovecottage.org.uk



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

If you would like to get out and meet people, *The Place on the Hill* offers a warm, safe and friendly environment for adults. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** and everyone is welcome. Join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits and save on your heating bills. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. There is limited parking behind the church. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer
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IN THE GARDEN

Soil!

Not the most exciting subject, but good soil is essential for a great garden. *Spend a pound on the hole and a penny on the plant* so the old saying goes. You have probably got clay soil and although it is naturally very nutrient rich, it has poor structure. The soil particles are very small leading them to stick together very easily, hence its use for making bricks. If your soil is very compacted, you may find it is black and a bit smelly under the top inch or so; this means it is anaerobic (no oxygen and every living thing in the soil has died). For successful plant growth you need to dig over to a spade's depth adding lots of matter with bigger particles: well-rotted farmyard manure, compost, grit or general soil conditioner will all suffice. Stay off the soil if it is really wet as you will only compact it further.



Maybe the soil is very dry or very wet, but no need to despair as there are plants that will survive in either of those conditions (more on this in later issues) but they all need to get oxygen to their roots. If you are working with an existing bed with too many plants to dig over, then a healthy dose of mulch such as compost, bark chips or Strulch, which I use, will be worked in by the worms over time to improve the situation. Mulch is also very good at helping keep the moisture in and the weeds under control. There is no need at all to remove soil and import fresh topsoil, this brings its own problems like vine weevils and is an unsustainable practice. Happy digging!

Anthea Harrison
Email: anthea@antheaharrison.co.uk

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the January draw:

£100	No 28	Edmund Wilkinson
£ 50	No 103	June Winter
£ 25	No 155	Ann Lee

The draw for March will be held on **30th March** 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



www.waterlanetheatrecompany.co.uk

Following the success of our 2023 production *Murdered to Death*, we are pleased to present *Secondary Cause of Death*, the second play in Peter Gordon's trilogy of murder mystery comedies. It is now 1939, and storm clouds are gathering over Europe. Having inherited Bagshot House, Colonel Charles Craddock has converted the property into a hotel for discerning visitors. Soon Inspector Pratt arrives at Bagshot House, bearing grim news for the Colonel. That is just the beginning: who is the strange Polish count? Is Henrietta really an army captain? Where does the flamboyant thespian Cardew Longfellow fit into the picture? When Joan Maple's sister Cynthia arrives to stage a murder mystery evening, it is not long before Pratt's visit turns into a chaotic nightmare as the bodies pile up once again!

Performances are at South Mill Arts, Bishop's Stortford on **Thursday 27th** and **Friday 28th March** at 7.30pm, and **Saturday 29th March** at 3.00pm and 7.30pm. Tickets: adults £19.00, over 60s or under 16s £17.50, Saturday matinee all tickets £17.50, available from the box office on 710200 or www.southmillarts.co.uk.

Penny Reeves



DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org

Cor, it has been a bit blowy lately, and whilst it makes a bit of a mess of our farm, our gorgeous animals are all lovely and snug and looking forward to having lots of visitors come and make a fuss of them. The little animals are cosily tucked away and our pigs just love snuffling in the woodland area, being amongst the trees; there is a lovely walk round here



that you can enjoy. There really is so much for you to do at the farm including riding on our train, meeting the new lambs and kid goats, holding chicks and ducklings, enjoying warm drinks and snacks, seasonal arts and crafts and more. We have all sorts of chickens, ducks, guinea-fowls, turkeys and geese; we often have eggs, and sometimes duck eggs, for you to buy. Come on down to our farm, blow

those cobwebs away and meet our new additions who will be born over the coming months.

Check our Facebook page for news on our latest arrivals, our opening hours and any new events such as our *Hatch a Chick* scheme which is now up and running again, along with other farm news updates. We always need help in so many ways, particularly at times like this when there is so much to do; if you have a little time to spare, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you. You can find us in Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN. We look forward to welcoming you.

Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

In 1975 I saw a film called *Pilgrimage* which had a most profound effect on me at a sixth form retreat which I was helping to organise. It documented a decision by Jean Vanier to take a group of male patients out of the confines of their medical institution in Canada and give them a different experience on a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Vanier had been warned by a number of disapproving authorities that he would be held responsible for any problems that should arise. But Vanier's philosophy was that every individual was a child of God and deserved the opportunity and liberty to have a special experience of His special love for them. He wanted to give these men the freedom to express themselves and to be filled with wonder and self-affirmation in a *Christ experience*.

As I watched the film, I found it very humbling to see the unquestioning confidence that the men put in Vanier and his helpers. Especially notable was their deep appreciation and open affection towards the young volunteers from all nations who assisted them. Their open lovingness and complete trust in the goodness of others contrasted somewhat with the anxious countenances of some of the souvenir shop owners, so concerned that someone might steal or cheat from them when the men arrived so joyfully. It made me wonder, who are the disabled ones? I am still very emotional as I write about the men's final night. The enduring glow of their faces, peacefully and totally immersed in prayer and wonder, reflecting the physical light of the hundreds of candles in the grotto was unforgettable. For them and for us, and what we learnt from them and ourselves, revealed a little bit of what we mean by *God's Kingdom Come on Earth as it is in Heaven*.

David Morson
St Theresa of Lisieux Catholic Church



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Parish Priest Fr Clement Orango
Tel: 814349
Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

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

Masses:
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6.00pm Mass

Sunday 8.30am Mass
10.00am Mass

Wednesday 12.30pm Mass

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

Baptisms: By appointment



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

Contact Sue Moloney Tel: 07759 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 March

2nd 10.30am Mike Dyer
9th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
16th 10.30am Heather Gale
23rd 10.30am Mark Hayes
30th 10.30am Babs Ward



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

February mornings have been frosty and foggy and tonight I saw the gritter lorry out preparing for the morning commuters. Let us hope for better weather to come. The snowdrops are already peeping out in the churchyard and the daffodils are proudly sporting beautiful buds. There are already signs that our feathered friends will soon be nest building to raise the next generation. It is so magical to watch the wonders of nature all around us if we just take the time to stop, look and listen.



Regular visitors to church will have seen the new donation box for card donations. So easy to use too; just select your amount and tap your card. Simple! Your donations help to keep this magnificent building open; it is part of Stansted's history. Without support, the work will not continue as it does right now. I hope to see you either in church or the churchyard soon.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



**ST JOHN'S
STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET**
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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Priest in Charge Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather Tel: 816721
Email: revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

From St John's Registers

January

Funerals

8th Sean Pritchard, age 63. Service in
St John's, interment in Parish Cemetery
16th David Civil, age 61. Service at St John's
and at Cam Valley
17th Elsie Smith, age 94. At Dunmow
Crematorium

ST PATRICK'S RACE NIGHT

You are warmly invited to a St Patrick's Race Night on **Saturday 15th March** at 7.00pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre. The first of eight races starts at 7.15pm. There will be nibbles and a bar and we are expecting an exciting and fun night. Please email me to reserve tickets, only £2! I look forward to hearing from you.

David Morson
Email: davidmorson20@gmail.com



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This month we are celebrating Bishop's Stortford *Literature and Words Week*. From a number-one selling children's book, workshops, and modern telling of classics, there is something for everyone at this year's festival.

On **Tuesday 18th March** at 7.00pm, we will be live screening the acclaimed new production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, starring David Tennant, filmed live at the Donmar Warehouse in London especially for the big screen.



Thomas Hardy's masterpiece, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, is thrillingly brought to life by the acclaimed Conn Artists Theatre Company on **Wednesday 19th** at 7.00pm, accompanied by music and songs of the period; there will also be a theatre workshop exploring the book at 4.00pm on that day, presented by the cast. We are offering a combination ticket deal for schools to attend both the workshop and main performance.



On **Thursday 20th** and **Friday 21st** at 2.00pm, Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations are leaping from page to stage; *There's a Monster in Your Show* is a high-energy 50-minute adventure featuring lively original music. This is the perfect introduction to live theatre for little

ones. The much-loved *National Theatre Live* will be returning to our screen on **Friday 21st** at 7.00pm with *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Max Webster (*Life of Pi*) directs this hilarious story of identity, impersonation and romance, filmed live from the National Theatre in London. For more information about ticket prices and everything that is happening this season, please see our website or call 710200.

Seren Stephen
Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

It has been a busy month at school. UKS2 had a WWI day recently to tie in with their topic. In the morning children experienced what life was like as an evacuee in a classroom setting, using ink pens and being interrupted by air raid sirens. In the afternoon they set up village shops, run by the children, where they could spend their rations using actual old currency. The café did a roaring trade in spam and jam sandwiches.

Our youngest children also had a treat, in conjunction with *Starry Night*. They came back to school in the evening in pyjamas and dressing gowns for bedtime hour. The school was in darkness, so everyone had to use torches to help find their way about. In the corridors there was a trail of nocturnal animals to find, and classroom ceilings had transformed into a sea of stellar constellations, an aurora and projections of the moon. Best of all was possibly the hot chocolate and biscuit. Many thanks to all the staff who came back to school to make it such a magical event.

All staff took part in an autism reality experience by way of innovative and immersive training to give the NT (neurotypical) with typical brain development and functioning an opportunity to enter the ND world and experience sensory processing difficulties. The ND have neurodevelopmental disorders (NDs), which are conditions such as autism and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder that affect how the brain functions. This was certainly an eye opening and interesting session.

We are holding a workshop on *Emotional Regulation* on **Tuesday 4th March** at 2.00pm in school. This will explore how to support ND children. Please let the school office know if you would be interested in attending. Lastly, we were delighted to be gifted with some fruit trees, these have been planted out and we look forward to picking bountiful crops in years to come.

Matthew Curzon
Head teacher
Tel: 812212

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Little Hadham



Stansted



Felsted

Evidence of all these different types of beer producers is to be found within the Hundred Parishes in the form of place names such as Brewery Lane in Stansted, Brewery House in Little Hadham; Little Brewers, a cottage in Matching Green; Brewery Cottage in Swards End and Brewers House in Dunmow. There are also surviving examples of the beerhouse from each of the various phases of the development of the industry. At Audley End House the estate's brewhouse survives although the internal features have been lost.



Radwinter



Furneux Pelham



Hatfield Heath

An example of a public house brewery survives as The Old Brewery in Radwinter, now a private house. In Hatfield Heath the former stand-alone brewhouse was converted to a corn mill before becoming commercial offices. Three examples of brewhouses which were a part of industrial brewery complexes survive in Furneux Pelham, Wethersfield and Hartford End in Felsted. All three have been renovated and converted to private residential use.

Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Annual Parish Meeting 2025



Annual Parish Meeting 2025-2026

Ruth Clifford

»» Clerk for Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

We are into March already, which means it is time once again to welcome you all to our Annual Parish Meeting.

This event essentially serves as a forum for residents to engage directly with the Parish Council face-to-face without many of the rules that govern regular council meetings. Because of this the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) offers the chance to discuss any parish affairs you wish to raise. That is, if there is an area of village life that you feel is not being discussed at our meetings the rest of the year — this is your opportunity to bring it to the floor.

Also, at an APM you can demand a poll be taken on any question arising at the meeting. Technically, you would need the support of at least 10 other local electors, or one-third of electors at the meeting - whichever is fewer. But a poll means you could ask the Parish Council to consider taking action on a matter for which it has statutory control — for example how it manages the cemetery or deals with allotments.

The Parish Council Chair and head of the Finance & General Purposes committee will both be at the meeting to listen to your concerns, and to offer their insight into how they see 2025 shaping up.

This year, like last, the Annual Parish Meeting will be at the Mountfitchet Exchange library, located next door to TouchPoint at the top of Chapel Hill. We would ask you to arrive 30 minutes before the meeting to give yourself time to find a seat and enjoy some refreshments before things get under way. See you there!

12th March 2025 — 7.30pm

The Mountfitchet Exchange
72 Chapel Hill

Please arrive from 7pm to allow time for refreshments and a prompt start

What's on the agenda?

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024
- 3 To receive a report from the Parish Council Chair – Cllr Maureen Caton
- 4 Parish Council Financial Report – Cllr John O'Brien
- 5 To welcome Peter Holt, chief executive of Uttlesford District Council, to discuss Local Government Devolution
- 6 To welcome recipients of Parish Grants in 2024
- 7 Open Forum

And this year's guest speaker is...

Peter Holt, chief executive of Uttlesford District Council. With Westminster committed to merging local authorities at the district and county level, Mr Holt will be shedding light on what the future holds for Uttlesford. Will the district council disappear? Will our bins get emptied? And if so, by which authority?





Annual Report 2025-2026

Maureen Caton

»» Chair of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

It has been confirmed the elections that had been expected for Essex County Council this year will be suspended. By the time of our Annual Parish Meeting on March 12th, we should understand more about the process of Local Government Reorganisation and the impact this change will bring. As it stands Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Councils have had their request to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme approved.

Will three into one work?

The "Devolution Deal" will create a Mayoral Strategic Authority for Essex (via the election of a mayor who will have devolved powers from government) in May 2026. It is proposed the Mayor will be able to make strategic decisions, speak directly to government ministers, secure funding for local projects, attract investment and improve infrastructure. A directly elected Mayor will have significant powers over strategic functions, e.g. for economic development, housing, infrastructure and transport.

Key functions of a newly created unitary authorities resulting from devolution will include managing transport and concessionary fares, overseeing training for skills and driving economic growth, as well as having strategic control over planning and housing. For example, should Uttlesford be merged with neighbouring district authorities, such as Braintree and Harlow, collective decisions will be able to be made across the three council boundaries.

By the time of our meeting, hopefully with more clarity on the role of Parish Councils and following our own internal discussions, we can decide if there are any particular areas we would like to significantly influence going forward.



The sheer number of roadworks, closures and diversions in 2024 has been an undoubted source of frustration for residents.

Peter Holt, chief executive of Uttlesford District Council, is our guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting. We look forward to Mr Holt's talk on Local Government Reorganisation. We hope he will be able to give us some further information on this development and the expected impacts and costs of these changes — how to ensure our issues and needs are addressed and not lost to the interests of bigger players.

Last year boundary changes were approved that saw Stansted Mountfitchet linked with parishes in the west of the county up to Chishall on the border with Cambridge. We need to understand how these changes will play out within the reorganisation of local authorities.

House building and Stansted

The district council's Local Plan is now with the Secretary of State for independent examination. As I reported to the Parish Council, the number of houses Uttlesford are expected to develop over the life of the plan has already increased from 674 to 804 homes, an increase of 19%.

It is crucial our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) fits with the strategy of the Local Plan. But we also need our views on where, why and how to build and develop housing with appropriate infrastructure remaining the golden thread in this crucial planning document.

Our NDP has been extensively revised following professional input from an advisor to parish councils on submitting neighbourhood plans to the planning inspectorate. This has been done to smooth the document's passage through the adoption process. The sooner our plan is officially approved, the less chance the village is open to speculative development. With this in mind, the Parish Council aims to submit its plan to Uttlesford early this summer. A public consultation on this Regulation 14 version of the NDP should soon follow.

Threat to community policing

At the time of writing this report, we are waiting to hear the fate of our Police Community Support Officer. This is in light of the announcement by the Essex Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner in February that all PCSOs are to be made redundant in Essex. Whether this will happen is uncertain. We have learned Essex Police are reconsidering the position of its 99 community support officers after the government announced a further £100m in funding to support neighbourhood policing and the targeting of antisocial behaviour.

A meeting has been held by Essex Police to discuss how this new funding could alter their stance. But as we go to press, we have had no confirmation of the future of PCSOs. The Parish Council continues to partly fund our PCSO. We do so because we believe they are an asset to our community's well-being. We would not support any decision to remove this post nor the funding available. We hope to update you positively at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Action, not words, please!

We continue to battle with the ongoing issues of our highways — potholes, road closures, HGV traffic. These remain unchanged and impact our daily life and, in some cases, livelihoods. Perhaps the reorganisation and devolution of local authorities will address this.

We continue to hold regular meetings with our District and County Councillors, who take forward our concerns on highways matters and on issues such as the condition of Manor Road flats, which need to be made safely habitable.

Essex County Councillor Tom Cunningham, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, attended a Full Council meeting last November. Unfortunately, rhetoric at the meeting has not been replicated with action and with clarity on a way forward to solve the highway issues raised. The portfolio holder for highways is still (as far as are aware) to arrange a meeting with the Manchester Airport Group to discuss diverting HGVs away from the village using its roads. This potential line of action followed the negative outcome of a traffic survey measuring HGV use along Grove Hill.

County Councillor Ray Gooding has confirmed he has progressed the application to have the chicanes removed on Church Road and a new traffic safety scheme to be considered. We await a review through the Local Highways Panel and a design and scheme proposal.

There also has also been no feedback from Cllr Cunningham in relation to additional street lighting from the new Walpole Meadows development to the top of the village. He has responded via Cllr Gooding that he is unable to respond to the questions we have raised in relation to highways maintenance in Stansted over the last five years, as this information is not recorded at this level. But he did commit to look at what capital projects are planned for the next five years and what major projects there have been.

Cllr Gooding is to arrange a meeting with the Environment Agency, ECC and Parish Council representatives in relation to safeguarding volunteers clearing the trash screen, and the maintenance that ECC are required to undertake.

Fighting for our green belt

In December, City and Country Group met with Councillors from Stansted and Birchanger to discuss their proposals to build 150 new homes on land between the two parishes. Both chairmen agreed that until the plans are developed, we are unable to comment further. But currently, in principle, we would object to the house builder's plans. The encroachment on both villages and Bishop's Stortford would be unacceptable. Helpfully recent legislative support means that development in "grey belt" still requires a significant determinant to do so.

Bloor Homes will have held their public consultation on Phase 2 of the Walpole development (270 houses) by the time we meet. This site is one of two included in UDC's draft Reg 19 Local Plan. Their application is intended to be reviewed by Uttlesford District Council and not the Planning Inspectorate. In relation to High Lane where Bloor intend to build 57 homes, the developer is proposing to formalise the lay-by for resident parking and to apply for a road traffic order to reduce the speed limit to 30mph. They have suggested that marketing of the homes is to be promoted for Stansted residents in the first instance — with 5% being affordable bungalows.

14 plots close to hand over

The day when residents will have the keys to their long-awaited allotment plot at Walpole Meadows draws nearer. Fourteen plots will soon be ready for new tenants, with



Negotiations continue between the Parish Council, Bloor Homes and Uttlesford District Council for the handover of 14 allotment plots at Walpole Meadows

one having been set aside for community use. Although the developer had been keen to hand ownership of the allotments to the Parish Council, we have had to work hard with the Section 106 officer at the district council and Bloor Homes so the land is fit for use prior to the exchange but this has now been completed. The Clerk and Open Spaces committee are in consultation with the Section 106 officer regarding the handover of the remaining public open spaces on the Walpole Meadows development.

Youth Club blooms

The Youth Club is now settled into its new home on the old Peter Kirk School site. The club operates three nights a week. On average 25 young people attend each session — almost three times as many as before. The feedback from its young attendees is resoundingly positive. They enjoy the activities, social interaction and fun provided by the club. The leader is working with a number of community organisations, notably TouchPoint Radio, to spread the word of its success to the wider community. A Youth Club trip to our twin town of Rungis is planned for Easter weekend. This will allow some of Stansted's younger residents to meet their French peers. This trip is being supported by a £1,000 donation from the Firework Event Group.

Backing for TouchPoint

SMPC have now granted a licence to occupy to TouchPoint for the old Day Centre building and Crafton Green House. We are delighted with the benefits that are provided to our community and the improvements made to the buildings through the organisation's successful grant applications. TouchPoint's occupation of these buildings has relieved the Parish Council of hefty business rates although we have continued to fund utility costs. TouchPoint has committed to try to repay the current year's utility costs at our year-end review. In turn the Parish Council will continue to monitor and review its spend in support of TouchPoint.

Search for cemetery land

We are continuing to search for cemetery land to enable parishioners to have the choice to be buried here in Stansted. In the same vein, we continue to speak to Legacy East Almshouse Partnership, endeavouring to progress the reinstatement of our almshouses and the safeguarding of the financial legacy remaining after the loss of those on Church Road.



Finance Report 2025-2026

John O'Brien

»»» Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Looking back over the past two years, it is small comfort that the inflation rate at 3.7% remains well above the ideal target figure of 2%.

We have done our best to lessen the load on our community in setting the Parish Council precept. It has been kept to a rise of 4.49%. This equates to an increase of £6.26 per annum of our share for Band 'D' Council Tax in 2025/26 of £145.77. This compares to £139.51 last year.

Like all employers, the increase in the minimum wage and National Insurance has affected all councils. Going out to tender for new three-year gardening and grass cutting contracts was essential and the higher costs have had to be dealt with, but this has partly been balanced by the deferment of this year's £25,000 payment to the Foresthall Park Community Fund.

The budget includes £7,000 for IT security back-up and an amount of £4,000, which has been set aside as a 'surety fund' to protect Youth Club finances in case Uttlesford District Council withdraws funding. These exceptional additions, along with the £10,000 for the Cemetery expansion, were the extras of note.

Energy costs

Overall, energy costs remain volatile, but we have been able to achieve a reduction in the energy costs for the Mountfitchet Exchange building on a short-term contract. Our brokers have advised that we defer merging our energy contracts until February 2026. By having all our contracts to end at the same time will help us amalgamate them to achieve a stronger bargaining position and make budgeting decisions more accurate. We shall, however, keep our streetlight energy contracts separate.

Streetlights

We are unsure what savings have been achieved since the conversion to LED and part-night lighting. Streetlight energy costs are not metered, and we have had to chase UK Power Networks time and time again to obtain the necessary information to move forward. After over 12 months, we have now received a certification of our lighting inventory, and we are now awaiting confirmation from our energy supplier. Still on streetlights, a structural survey is due in June 2026. It is feared that we shall have to replace around 30 lamps along Chapel Hill and Lower Street. Corrosion at the base of some of them was highlighted in 2023. This has prompted the inspectors to return after three years, instead of the usual five.

Lighting manufacturers have been contacted to provide costings of the replacement columns and lanterns in good time for us to prepare a suitable strategy. By next year, we will have raised £45,000 towards the cost.

IT Security

Cyber Crime has become a red-hot potato and the Council has sought protection within the Government's "Cyber Essentials" programme. The Parish Council has at last received certification that we have the required IT Security competence level with the help of Genmar, a highly regarded IT Security and Business Support company.

Flood defence

The flood warning system was found to have failed this autumn, but the manufacturers are dealing with the problem and it should be back in place soon. The two sets of pins in the Ugley Brook, along Gall End Lane, have taken a battering, but have been a worthwhile investment. The trash screen at the entrance to the culvert that runs under Lower Street has survived being overwhelmed by the closest of margins. Thankfully, at last we have received acknowledgement by Essex County Council that it is their responsibility to keep the area around it clear of vegetation. This will help our Flood wardens keep the screen free of debris. Iain Rankin and the team deserve our grateful thanks.

Library lease

Finally, we are still waiting six years on for the lease of the Library area of the Mountfitchet Exchange to be signed. The procrastination of Essex County Council is a scandal. It shows a serious degree of indifference by the County Council towards their dealings with Parish Councils. Will the creation of a different Unitary Authority make any difference? I wonder.

You can find our audited accounts and budget for 2025/26 on our website at stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/document-category/financial-reports/

SMPC Community Grants

From March 31st, the window will open for local organisations to apply for a SMPC community grant. In 2025 over £7,500 of funding is available. Awards are made for applications that meet SMPC's grant criteria on a first come, first served basis. For an application pack and details of grant criteria visit

stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/grants

Mountfitchet Exchange March Events

Open Spaces committee meeting at 7.30pm on March 5

Peabody Advice Drop-in from 11am on March 6

Full Council meeting at 7.30pm on March 19

Citizens Advice Drop-ins from 9.30am on March 13, 20, 27

Garden Waste Skip Service

The parish-council funded garden waste service returns to the Lower Street Car Park in March and will continue on alternating Sundays through until November 23

Skip dates: 12.30-4.30pm from Sunday, 2nd March

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Layering up our Allotment for 2025

It was one of those misty late December afternoons; the volunteers decided to meet at the allotment for what turned out to be a very productive session. We had bark chippings kindly donated by Uppercut Trees, and we soon got warm layering it up around our revitalised wildflower patch. We hope by spring this will add some colour and attract different wildlife. Our reward was a hot drink and mince pies which Alex kindly brought along.

On the days when we cannot get to the allotment, the next best pastime is browsing through the colourful seed catalogues, sketching out planting plans and deciding what to grow in the forthcoming year. Crop rotation plays a key part in the annual allocation of our planting; what varieties suit certain areas and utilising the space to the maximum.



Growing from seed is so rewarding; our volunteers have already decided what to grow using their windowsills, propagator or greenhouse, if heated. We are keen to keep growing the kitchen staples and maybe try some more exotic varieties of vegetables, much of which we hope to donate to Touchpoint later in the year. Let us keep those green fingers crossed. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community and we are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in joining us please email Cathy at cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH 2025

Taking part in the annual birdwatch at the end of January I saw roughly the same numbers and species of birds in my garden as I did in 2024. All my regular visitors turned up to enjoy a bath and peck the food provided. When submitting my results, it was interesting to see that in Essex the most sightings recorded were of the house sparrow, a bird rarely seen in my garden. Not sure if that is because they are so well camouflaged that I fail to spot them or if they are just

not interested in the menu on offer at my address. Obviously, some research needed before next year if I want to attract the sparrows!



The species that visits my garden the most is definitely the starling. It is a very entertaining bird to watch as it squawks and squabbles with all the other birds, particularly fellow starlings. Counting them is an absolute nightmare as they always descend on the bird table in large numbers. They crowd round the food like a gang of unruly teenagers, constantly on the move in an attempt to get a better position at the trough. Starlings are a joy to observe. In the spring iridescent patches of green and purple appear to brighten up their blackish plumage, making them as colourful as I expect their language is. They are also famous for their mass pre-roost gatherings known as a murmuration; a spectacular sight, forming ever-changing shapes in the sky and moving as one great entity.

Who needs sparrows when you can enjoy watching the antics of the fascinating starling?

Loki



www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 11th March** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts; coffee will be available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Alison Baker on *The Culture of the Elizabethan Court in Four Aspects: Poetry, Plays, Presents and Portraits*.



This lecture explores and brings to life the richness of 16th century royal and aristocratic life. In this colourful and memorable exploration of people who lived 500 years ago, we will get to know the key figures who made up the court of Elizabeth I, their idea of fashion, entertainment and how they

wanted to be remembered.

Why not come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed? Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation £7. Membership secretary is Jenny Savage, tel 656065 email: info@tasbs.org.uk. Assistant membership secretary is Sue Chapman tel 508542. Please see our website for more details.

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THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Daffodils follow on from the snowdrops at the gardens and have a lovely long season. Did you know there are 80 wild species with only two native to the UK, and over 30,000 different varieties of cultivated daffodils on the *International Daffodil Register*? At the gardens we have planted *tête-a-tête* for their early show; they give a really vibrant splash of colour along the top of the Italian garden from late February.

They are followed by a host of naturalised varieties near the elephant statue and in the lime wood, as shown in the photograph below. Some of those were on the market in the early 1900s, so were probably planted when Peto redesigned the gardens and built the treehouse for the Countess of Warwick in 1902.



The memorial area in the glade was established with daffodils and hyacinths. We have also planted late flowering narcissi to complement *Camassia* in the mini orchard at the top of the kitchen garden; to brighten the tree cathedral in the glade and to add to the Japanese style garden near the platform with views onto the fishing lake.

The gardens are not routinely open to the public in March but if the weather is set fair we sometimes open on Thursdays in late March; we announce this on our Facebook, Instagram or website. So keep an eye out! Of course our gardeners, who keep everything looking so lovely, see the flowers as they emerge week by week.

We take on new volunteers all year round and will be holding a new session for them on **Thursday 20th March**. As well as gardeners we are pleased to welcome volunteers who like to help with maintenance work, catering and front of house roles. There is something for everyone. You can find information and contact details on our website.

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



Citizens Advice
the charity for your community

HELP WITH CHILDCARE COSTS

www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Raising a family and seeing your child develop and grow can be immensely rewarding. Family life can also present many challenges and there may be times when you need some extra help or guidance.

Friendly advisers at Uttlesford Citizens Advice are here to provide free, practical advice, tailored to your needs. Reaching out for support at the right time can help prevent challenges from becoming overwhelming for your family. We are here to help you focus on what matters most, empowering you with the knowledge and confidence to take control and make the most of these precious years. We can offer support with a range of issues:

- Checking entitlements to benefits
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- Help with school costs such as transport and school meals
- Help with childcare costs
- Support for children with special educational needs and/or a disability
- Relationship conflict or coping with the end of a relationship
- Child maintenance issues
- Maternity and paternity rights and requests for flexible working
- Housing issues such as tenancy rights or poor-quality housing.

Other local services that support young families can be found at www.essexfrontline.org.uk.

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

LINK ADVERTISING

Calling New Advertisers

We are very pleased to welcome several new advertisers this month

There are still a few spaces left

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Email: adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk

GUESS THE OBJECT 2

Do any readers know what these small glass dishes are called and what they were used for?



We would be pleased to hear your suggestions. Please email: photos@stanstedlink.org.uk. All will be revealed in the next edition of the Link!

An Apology

In last month's Link we reported that Rosina Down was one of the people who identified the first mystery object. This should have said Rosina Kirkwood. Sincere apologies to Rosina for any confusion.



RECYCLING



Foreign and old UK Banknotes not Recycled

As the foreign and old UK coins we recycle are sold by weight to be melted down and raise funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), unfortunately we are **not** able to accept old bank notes. We are also still collecting spectacles with or without cases, along with ink cartridges (**not** toners), stamps, mobile phones, ipads and tablets (**not** laptops). We do not need chargers. 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 porch; 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
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

By the end of February we will have finished any coppicing activity so that going into spring we do not disturb wildlife, particularly nesting birds, with noisy chainsaws. The finished coppices may look like an area of destruction so it is worth explaining what is happening and why.

Multi stemmed hazel trees have been coppiced for hundreds of years to provide fire wood and building material. The straight and flexible stems that grow after coppicing were a valuable resource used for a variety of purposes. Where it grows, most villages would have had a managed hazel wood. Today our stems go to the Audley End estate for fencing and to gardeners for bean poles, whilst some of the thicker stems go to Morris dancers! Coppicing cuts the hazel back almost to ground level leaving a *stool*. The new growth from the stool creates a multi stem shrub rather than a single stem tree, creating a particular habitat that we want to maintain. Immediately after coppicing an area until the hazels have grown tall again, the floor of the wood is opened up to daylight allowing other plants to flourish. So by coppicing areas in rotation over the years we ensure that this cycle of growth and plant variety continues.



At Aubrey Buxton we cover the coppiced stools with interwoven branches to stop rabbits and deer eating the new hazel shoots as they appear. The remaining cut material is laid as a dead hedge which is excellent cover for small mammals and nesting sites for birds such as wrens. The photo above shows how this looks until the new shoots appear. Stools that were coppiced last year already have new growth up to four feet high!

John Welham
Warden

Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk

QUIZ ANSWERS

1 Orchid 2 Life on Mars 3 50 4 Diamond 5 AB
6 Stephen King 7 Saffron 8 6 feet 9 Northern Lights 10 22
11 1972 12 Brent 13 Mycroft 14 Louvre
15 1992



A group of five children are climbing a large, leafless tree in a park. One child is at the top, another is high up, and three are lower down, including one on the ground holding a large log.

ness. Starfish and Turtles Classes explored the joy of creativity by making vibrant *It's Great to Be Me!* portraits. Octopus Class engaged in thoughtful discussions about resilience, creating imaginative backpacks filled with ideas for overcoming challenges. Marlins Class connected with their spiritual side outdoors, exploring nature and crafting beautiful *God's Eyes*

representing protection and the Holy Trinity.

Meanwhile, Sharks Class embraced self-expression by researching and recreating stunning art in the style of Kandinsky. Everyone came together to enjoy a meaningful whole-school collective worship on mental health led by the Sanctuary Foundation. The grand finale at the end of the week was a *Dressed to Express* day where the children came in clothes to express themselves; we had some wonderful outfits and a fun-filled day!

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk



What is it like as a young person at Sustainable Stansted? I have been a part of this organisation since the first meeting, and recently I have been going as part of my *Duke of Edinburgh Award* volunteering. We are made up of two groups: the environmental (focusing on reducing pollution and damage to the surrounding areas) and energy (which aims to increase the efficiency of energy usage). I am a part of the environmental group, and we have recently been conducting a biodiversity study around Stansted to map out the different habitats and foliage in the area. We hope that by doing this, we can prioritise parts of Stansted which need an increase in biodiversity so that we can take action in those areas. Being part of Sustainable Stansted has helped me to develop many skills and provided me with opportunities to help the environment. If you would like to volunteer with our group, please get in touch.

Alexander Scott
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

Under the new name of *Festival of Voices* I am pleased to give you advanced notice that Stansted will sing together again on the following dates, this time at TouchPoint:

- Sat 26th April 3.00pm-5.15pm including a break for refreshments
- Sat 3rd May 3.00pm-5.15pm including a break for refreshments
- Sat 10th May 3.00pm-5.15pm including a break for refreshments
- Sat 17th May 3.00pm-5.15pm followed by a sharing event 6.00pm-6.45pm.



We will have a new set of beautiful songs on the theme of *sharing the love*, including Sing Your Own Kind Of Music, Thimlela from South Africa and Celebration.

We especially welcome new singers; you do not need to be able to read music. Please email me to reserve your place. I look forward to hearing from you.



Jane Wheeler

Email: janievox@mac.com

STANSTED LIBRARY

The library at the Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm
Wednesday 2.00pm-5.30pm
Thursday 2.00pm-7.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm





STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The persistent wet weather which we experienced in February has played havoc with all our teams' fixtures. Scheduling home league fixtures is becoming a bit of a nightmare for our fixtures secretary, especially for the First Team, with the Football Association insisting that the final weekend of the National League system will be the end of April. At the time of compiling this article our First Team have 15 games remaining of which 12 are to be played at Hargrave Park.

The lack of game time is now affecting our results, and for the first time since the current Committee took on the running of the Club, we find ourselves in a relegation scrap. The possibility of losing our step five status could have serious consequences for us. Everyone remains positive, and with plenty of home games to come and the continued support of our *Airport Army* we are confident we will survive. Our Youth section continues to impress, especially the under 16s who are currently in a strong position in their respective league and cup campaigns. This is despite pitch conditions restricting them from playing home games at Hargrave Park so they are having to source alternative venues many miles away from Stansted.

League Fixtures at Hargrave Park in March:

4 th	White Ensign	KO	7.45pm
8 th	Hullbridge Sports	KO	3.00pm
15 th	Buckhurst Hill	KO	3.00pm
18 th	Benfleet	KO	7.45pm
22 nd	Halstead Town	KO	3.00pm
29 th	Takeley	KO	3.00pm



Tom Williams
Secretary
Tel: 07921 403842



Stansted Tennis Club

Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Please see our website for details of tournaments, league matches and social events and for lots of other information about the Club. New members are always welcome.

Coaching

On Sundays coaching sessions for children aged four to seven years run from 8.00am-9.00am and adult group sessions, for beginner to intermediate players, from 9.00am-10.00am. These sessions are perfect for anyone wishing to get back into tennis if they have not played in a while, or to brush up on some basic tennis skills. If you, or your child are interested, please email Dan at danw.tennis@gmail.com. After a short winter break, junior after-school tennis sessions will resume from 26th February on Wednesday and Thursdays 5.00pm-7.00pm. If your child wishes to join any of these sessions, please email: phil_tennis@outlook.com.

Fiona Kelly
Secretary

Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

All is not well with English cricket. Results during the winter months for our international teams have been really disappointing, both men and women. With a test series against India this coming summer and an Ashes series in November and December, let us hope that things will improve.

We will not get downcast however; village cricket is alive and well. Our Club had a very successful quiz which was won by Gina Thomas and Philippa Fidell with a little help from others. Senior and junior indoor nets have begun at the Hertfordshire and Essex Cricket Centre in High Wych. *All Stars* cricket will start in May for five to eight year olds; if you are interested you must register with the English Cricket Board. We are hoping to raise funds to purchase mowing equipment and mobile nets as these are urgently required. We continue to welcome new members of all ages; please contact me for further information. It is not too long now; roll on the summer.



David Brown
Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663
Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com

NEWPORT FLOWER CLUB

March into Friendship, Fun and Flowers

The title of this month's demonstration on **Wednesday 19th March** at 7.00pm in Ugley Village Hall is *March Floral Marvel* by Gill McGregor who is a renowned International Floral Art designer, author, demonstrator and teacher. We are delighted to welcome her back for another evening of stunning displays. Please do come and bring a friend; this evening is one not to be missed.



A floral design for Valentine's Day

Our arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening. Visitors are always very welcome.

Patricia Sanz
Email: flowersanzp2020@gmail.com

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: 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
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
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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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