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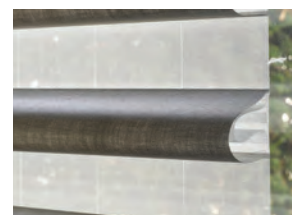
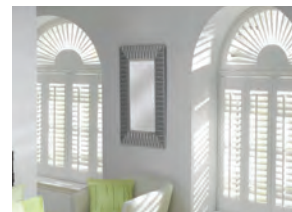
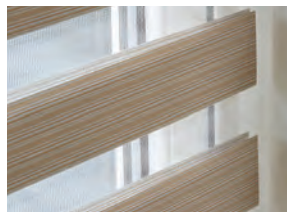
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Front cover

Stansted Home Guard 1945
Courtesy of Dot and John Salmon
Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE ISSUE

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



Once again, we are going back in time for the May front cover, as a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VE day. Many thanks to Dot and John Salmon for providing this excellent photograph of the local Civil Defence group. You may remember that the 75th anniversary could not be appreciated properly as it took place during the Covid lockdown in 2020. We published an online version of The Link five years ago; we are very relieved that we can provide both the online and printed versions this year. Paul Burt spent a fair bit of time enhancing this picture, our thanks to him as always. There is a fascinating article on p6 with personal memories of VE day from some of our local residents; thank you to them all for these wonderful memories.

Carole Gray has been kind enough to send us several lovely pictures in the past which have graced a few of our front covers. She has once again been extremely helpful to The Link by conducting a most interesting interview with Jade Law, who runs the Romeera Leisure Centre. It strikes me that there are more and more beautiful pictures sent to The Link, from our local Aubrey Buxton nature reserve, from the Gardens of Easton Lodge and from Hatfield Forest, amongst others. These are greatly appreciated and thanks to everyone who sends them. Several readers have sent pictures to us, which we are hoarding and hope to use at a future date.

Ed



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Olwyn Smith was the speaker at our March meeting and what an entertaining afternoon she gave us! Her subject was *My unusual Career* and what a career it was. As a professional dancer she was part of a TV dance troupe on Saturday nights in the 1970s. She was one of 12 ladies known as the *Mitchell Maids*. Six were brunettes and six were blondes and they were paid £20.00 per week. She not only appeared on television but also on summer tours with Lionel Blair, amongst others, including the popular Mike and Bernie Winters. She performed in the *Talk of the Town* in London's Leicester Square where she met a great number of stars. *The Royal Variety Performance* in which she danced for her late Majesty was a very proud memory for her, as it was for her mother, who was in the audience that night.



Olwyn ended her fascinating talk by showing us some of the souvenirs of her career including a copy of *Weekend* magazine from 1972 in which her photo appeared, together with a programme from *The Talk of the Town* and numerous other photos of her with stars of stage and screen.

She kindly judged our competition - the theme of which, chosen by her, was something black and white, for which

there were a number of imaginative entries including a die!

Our May meeting will be held on **Wednesday 21st May** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. This will be our AGM; however all are welcome to attend.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

STANSTED SINGS TOGETHER

A reminder that under the new name of *Festival of Voices*, Stansted will sing together again on the following Saturdays at TouchPoint, who are sponsoring the event: **26th April, 3rd May, 10th May and 17th May** 3.00pm-5.15pm including a break for refreshments. On **Saturday 17th May** 6.00pm-6.45pm there will be a sharing event for friends and family and anyone else who would like to come and listen and maybe even join in!

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



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 it is 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



CHRISTIAN AID SOUP LUNCH



Churches Together in Stansted is again serving a variety of delicious soups and bread rolls on **Saturday 10th May** noon-2.00pm in Stansted Free Church Hall. There is no charge, but there will be a collection for Christian Aid. Everyone is welcome and it would be helpful if you can please let me know that you are coming so that we have enough soup for everyone, although no one has gone home hungry yet!



Catherine Dean
Tel: 07803 299683

Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



MAGNA CARTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.magnacartaacademy.org

We are excited to share all the wonderful things happening at our school as we celebrate the Easter season. We kicked off our festivities with a fun-filled Easter Bonnet Parade around the school grounds as well as an Easter themed meal. It is always a great way to bring everyone together as we celebrate the arrival of spring, with longer days and flowers blooming.

Our classes have taken advantage of the beautiful days with some exciting trips and outdoor learning experiences. Year 4 enjoyed a visit to Colchester Castle, where they learned about The Romans and their influence on Britain. Years 1 and 2 participated in the local dance festival at Bentfield School. The children danced with joy and rhythm and had a lot of fun at the same time. A Year 6 group also performed at Saffron Walden County High as part of the Year 6 dance festival. These trips and experiences have been a fantastic way for our pupils to learn beyond the classroom, and we look forward to more exciting adventures in the coming months.



Our sports teams have been busy this term, competing in a range of events. The football team made it to the semi-finals in the local area tournament. Unfortunately, they lost to a stronger All Saints team. Our athletics squad took home several medals at the recent Cross-Country Championships. The hockey club represented us at the Uttlesford Hockey Festival where we won our group stage (see photo). Our netball teams participated in two competitions and some

friendly matches where they performed well. It is wonderful to see our pupils showcasing their talents, teamwork, and sportsmanship; we could not be more proud of their efforts.

Jennifer Pearce
Headteacher
Tel: 703484



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

At last the re-pointing work has been completed, the scaffolding removed and the mill looking in pristine condition. The photograph shows Paul Kemp, our millwright, in the process of replacing the top iron ring into position after the brickwork beneath had been re-pointed. There are more photographs and details of the work undertaken on our Facebook page.



That work should see the main structure of the windmill through the next 100 years or so. However, there is always more work to do and the next big job will be to replace the sails which were installed in 1985. The kind of conservation work involved in this project brings home the importance of having people trained in the traditional skills needed to preserve historic buildings. According to the Heritage Skills website, Paul is one of only 11 full-time millwrights working in the country. We are very fortunate to have a good relationship with Paul; his regular inspections and maintenance work are crucial to keeping our mill in good order.

In April we held a very successful quiz night supported by more than 60 people, who helped us raise over £500 towards windmill funds. We are grateful to Tesco Express for donating some of the raffle prizes. We also wish to thank a team of local quizzers, Kate, Mike, Peter and Heather, who had won a recent quiz night prize at The Linden hotel and have donated their £50 winnings to the windmill.

During May you will have four opportunities to visit the mill as we are open 1.30pm-5.30pm on **Sunday 4th** and Bank Holiday **Monday 5th May**, National Mills Weekend on **Sunday 11th May** and then again on the Spring Bank Holiday **Monday 26th May**. We hope to see many of you there.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 813871

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the March draw:

| | | |
|------|--------|----------------|
| £100 | No 136 | June Cannon |
| £50 | No 130 | Katy Dockerill |
| £25 | No 10 | Alan Helbert |

The draw for May will be held on **25th May** 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



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

As usual, many events took place at St Mary's in the run-up to Easter. We celebrated *Neurodiversity Week* by the children drawing a picture of their face, half as is and half to show what is going on in their mind.



We were also happy to turn the school red on *Red Nose Day*. We asked the children to come in wearing at least one item of red, and we raised over £350. Year 4 recently shone at *Dance Share* held in the splendid Saffron Hall. Some of our children find the dance element of sport challenging, and so to give such a polished and confident performance to a big audience, in a grand place, was especially pleasing. Our wonderful Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) have been very busy with a disco and Spring Bake Off.

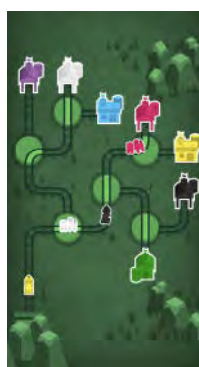
They are holding a *Drag Bingo Extravaganza* at St John's Church Hall on **Saturday 10th May**, and plans are already afoot for the Summer Fayre on Saturday 28th June. So many of the extras which our children enjoy come from the PTFA, and we are very grateful for all the hours and hours of work they put in for us. For more info about Drag Bingo, please email: ptfa@st-marys-stansted.essex.sch.uk.

Matthew Curzon
Headteacher
Tel: 812212

BRAIN TRAINING

Brain Training Apps

These apps have been around for a little while. At first researchers rubbished them, saying you only got good at doing the games. However, more recent research shows that brain training apps do improve cognitive function, provided there is additional stimulation added before or during the brain exercises. A simple way to do this is to combine the app with deliberate physical movement, like walking, jogging or bouncing on the spot, squatting or lunging, swinging an arm in a figure of eight, maybe circling your tongue around the outside of your teeth or a combination of the above. Moving engages many parts of the brain, which increases the stimulation and the effort, especially if it makes doing the brain game harder. The feeling of difficulty means you have hit gold! Improvements come when you are just out of your comfort zone.



If you do not currently use brain training apps, you can try Lumosity (see photo) and eMaze Brain. These are apps with many games, the advantage of this being novelty, so the brain does not get bored. You will find some games more difficult and enjoy those you find easier. You can also explore the Dual N-Back, a single brain strain game which is extremely effective and certainly ups the arrgghh factor. There are also Stroop tests in various forms out there, for example on Apple; the Stroop Effect is particularly good.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

Homes leaking Heat – an Update

We have been helping residents see where their house is allowing heat from inside to escape to the outside, thus wasting energy and money. We have been doing this by using a Thermal Imaging (TI) camera, which can show and measure the heat escaping through chimneys, windows and poorly insulated walls etc. This can help to see the best options for reducing or stopping this heat loss. We have done some home visits, but have more people waiting. However, the weather is now against us, because it is too warm to enable us to have good results. If we get a cold snap, we will do more visits. If not, we will resume visits later this year. Apologies to those people waiting. Please look out for further updates on our Facebook page, or on our website.

Bob Burlton
Email: bobburlton@outlook.com



Saturday Seminar

9.30 am Sat 3rd May
St Theresa's Parish Centre

World War II: the Perspective of Empire by David Morson

followed by a free exhibition 1 - 3 pm of memorabilia curated from our members' archive material

Non-members welcome to the exhibition

STANSTED SINGS TOGETHER

Come and join Stansted's Community Choir

3 - 5.15 pm Sat 3rd, 10th, 17th May

Sharing event 6 pm Sat 17th May
Touchpoint

All abilities welcome

To book your place please email
Jane on janievox@mac.com



Stansted Millers

Windmill Open in May

1.30 - 5.30 pm

Sun 4th

Bank Holiday Mon 5th

National Mills Weekend Sun 11th

Bank Holiday Mon 26th

Come and have a look round

Entry: adults £3, child £1

WHAT'S ON IN MAY

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Thu | History Society AGM | Touchpoint 7.30 pm |
| 3 Sat | U3A World War II Exhibition | St Theresa's Parish Centre 1 - 3 pm |
| 3/10/17 Sat | Stansted Sings Together | Touchpoint 3 - 5.15 pm |
| 4 Sun & 5 Mon | Windmill Open | 1.30 - 5.30 pm |
| 6 Tue | Stansted is Well Read | Dog and Duck 8 pm |
| 8 Thu | W I | Touchpoint 7.30 pm |
| 9 Fri | Link copy due in today | before noon |
| 10 Sat | Christian Aid Soup Lunch | Free Church Hall noon - 2 pm |
| 11 & 25 Sun | Skips | Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm |
| 11 Sun | Ride for Helen | Crix Estate, Hatfield Peverel 8 am |
| | Windmill Open | 1.30 - 5.30 pm |
| | S W Symphony Orchestra | Saffron Hall 3 pm |
| 12 Mon | Grove Cottage Walk | Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 9.30 am |
| 13 Tue | The Arts Society B S | South Mill Arts, B S 10.40 am |
| | RSPB | Bishop's Pk Comm Centre 7.30 pm |
| 15 Thu | U3A Monthly Meeting | St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm |
| 17 Sat | Ugley Farmers' Market | Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon |
| | Stansted Sings Sharing Event | Touchpoint 6 pm |
| 18 Sun | Tudor Open Day | Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm |
| | Newport Flower Club | Ugley Village Hall 7.30 |
| 21 Wed | Ugley W I AGM | Ugley Village Hall 2 pm |
| 24 Sat | Elsenham Farmers' Market | Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm |
| 26 Mon | Windmill Open | 1.30 - 5.30 pm |

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 6th May

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

The Housekeepers
by Alex Hay

Mrs King, dismissed from her position as housekeeper to a grand house in Mayfair, plans a revenge heist with her team

All Welcome Tel 813056



You're invited to a free Lunch!

Noon - 2 pm Sat 10th May

Free Church Hall

Delicious Homemade Soup and Rolls

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Donations to Christian Aid welcome



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon
Sat 17th May
Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs

Fish ~ Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb

Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam

Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants

Refillable Laundry and Edible Products

Knitting and Needlework

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For info and future dates tel 814052



OPEN DAY

11 am - 5 pm Sun 18th May
(last entry 4 pm)

Tudor Event

Tickets £7 on gate or £6 in advance
from www.trybooking.com

Activities for all the family incl archery
Tudor music using period instruments

All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979



English Concert

3 pm Sun 11th May

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

Weber Clarinet Concerto No 2

Vaughan Williams London Symphony

Frank Bridge The Sea

Adults £18 and £21, 18-25s £11

under 18s £6 from

Saffron Hall Box Office 0845 548 7650

www.saffronhall.com or on the door



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 13th May

Bishop's Park Community Centre

We welcome Matt Merritt, editor of Bird Watching, the best-selling magazine of its genre in Britain.

Visitors welcome, entry £5

Tel: Peter 07876 295456

www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 13th May

South Mill Arts

Venice and the Contribution of Venetian Women.
by Jane Angelini

Guests welcome £7. Coffee at 10 am

Tel 656065 for more information



Green Waste Skip Dates

Lower Street Car Park
Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

11th & 25th May
8th & 22nd June

PERSONAL MEMORIES OF VE DAY

Bonfire on Stoney Common

I grew up in Stoney Common. Although I went to school in Stansted, we didn't really feel part of the village, which centred around Cambridge Road and Chapel Hill. I remember the children's parade very well, and we were delighted to have a few days off school. I also remember that we had a large bonfire in Stoney Common. My 1945 personal diary records that on 15th August we all celebrated VJ Day which brought the war to an end, and I can remember that event more vividly than VE Day. Jean McBride was a close friend; she lived in Woodfields and remembered a celebration dance in the Station Square, where nearly everyone was female because all the men were still away!

Margaret Silvester

VE Day 8th May 1945: my 14th birthday

A day off school! I had been evacuated to Stansted in 1939 with my mother and rejoined the relatives who still lived here, the tail end of several generations born in the village. As always, we all gathered at Bentfield End, where Uncle Frank and Aunt Rose Turner ran the Stores and kept open house for friends, family, neighbours, American servicemen, firemen, and farming people. The photograph below shows the gathering on that day.



Back row L-R: Audrey Warwick (now Rodgers), Marion Sweet, Mrs Warwick (Audrey's mother), Rose Turner (Audrey's aunt), Fred Hoffman, Queenie Sweet, Ida Leech.
Front row L-R: Nora Turner, Christopher Turner (Nora's son), Linda Leech (now Gilbert), Jean Hoffman (Fred's daughter), Annabel Leech, Linda Sweet.

Dad had stayed in the keepers' lodge in London Zoo which remained open throughout the war. Fourteen was a red-letter birthday in 1945 as you could leave school, but I was lucky to be at the Herts and Essex High School. I had a special cake and a new flowery, silky, dress bought from London. We shared in the celebrations in Lower Street with searchlights, lots of drink flowing, and dancing to Mrs Haggerwood and her piano accordion outside the Queen's Head. When we got home, my Dad had arrived back unexpectedly from London, so that was the time for candles and cake cutting.

One thing I cannot remember, but Jean McBride told me, is that I had a ride on a tank along Cambridge Road; she was jealous! Not every family could be together in May 1945 and it was many months before the demob or repatriation for all the servicemen. We were lucky as all our family were eventually reunited.

Audrey Rodgers

Singing and Dancing all Night

I will never forget VE night. I was nine, living in Turner's Grocery Store in Lower Street, which had bunting hanging from house to house all the way to the railway station.



There was singing and dancing all night, the pubs stayed open and the streetlights were on. Old Mr Joe Childs had dance music playing

through a loudspeaker on top of his little Austin. The soldiers manning a huge searchlight lifted me up so I could turn the handles on the massive light up to the sky and along the street. I remember being grabbed by young women to join in the group doing the hokey cokey and Auld Lang Syne. I was kissed so many times my mother had to scrub my face to get rid of all the lipstick! Many of those celebrating were evacuees; many of the songs being sung were Vera Lynn's. Old Mr Griggs (aka Ditcher) came in our shop and said *It's better than Christmas*. The siren gave us the all clear – the terrible war was over.

Keith Turner

From the Herts and Essex Observer 12th May 1945

Interesting and popular features marked Victory Day Celebrations in Stansted. In the evening there were two Whist Drives, one at the Mary MacArthur Home and the other at the British Restaurant. A dance held at the Central Hall proved a special attraction, particularly among the large number of members of the Forces, who were admitted free.

Perhaps the most popular feature of all was on Wednesday afternoon, when all the schoolchildren marched with banners and flags to St John's Church for a special service. This impressive service will long be remembered by the children and by the few parents who were able to be accommodated. Afterwards the children took part in a parade along St John's Road and Cambridge Road which were lined by a crowd of proud and enthusiastic parents. Tea was then served.

Arrangements for the celebrations were made by the Parish Council, and the eminent success of the whole proceedings was due to the co-operation of many helpers. Although the war was won and the threat of Nazism removed, there was still some uneasiness. The war in the Pacific was unresolved, and millions of people in Europe and Russia had to rebuild their lives.

Researched by Trevor Lloyd

JADE LAW

Although Jade does not actually live in the village, she is here every day, managing the Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre next to Forest Hall School. Jade was born in Cambridge, grew up in Saffron Walden with her two older brothers and now lives in Great Chesterford. She drives daily from there to get to the gym at 5.45am.



As a child Jade wanted to be a police officer, but later decided to pursue a career as a beautician and started studying this at college. However, deciding that she wanted to learn to drive and needing money for the lessons and a car, she left college and started working at a supermarket. She was soon desperate to leave and, aged 22, applied for a membership sales role at the gym group of which Romeera is part. Over the next 14 years Jade worked her way up, with stints at the Dunmow and Saffron Walden leisure centres, before becoming the manager of the Stansted Centre in 2017.

Jade loves working at our village gym, saying *Stansted is such a lovely community and I have made such great friendships here*. Her ethos, which she feeds down to her team, is that everyone is made welcome at the gym and should feel comfortable whatever their age, mobility or body size. In addition to working at Romeera, Jade also teaches classes elsewhere, concentrating on falls prevention, stroke rehabilitation and other classes to encourage older people to maintain their fitness. She particularly enjoys working with older, anxious and less able adults, and thinks her interest in this area stems from her mum being a carer who often took Jade on her client visits.

Although Jade is pretty much obsessed with her work, outside of work she can be found socialising with her friends (many of whom she first met at the gym), reading, travelling and looking after her nan. At Christmas, she and her nan stayed at a spa hotel in Suffolk for a few days; Jade said it was quite a challenge keeping up with her nan! She is also studying for higher level qualifications to enable her to teach adults with specific medical conditions; the most recent course was in peri to post menopause. A group of gym members and Jade have formed a close friendship group, going out for dinner regularly and short breaks; the oldest in the group is 80 years old.

Jade was recently nominated for the *Commitment to the Community Award* sponsored by Uttlesford District Council. She was nominated by a woman who joined the gym a few months ago after being referred by her GP but had such severe anxiety and lack of confidence that she was physically unable to enter the gym. Jade supported her and gently got her into the gym and now you cannot keep her away! As Jade told me *making a difference to someone's life gives me such joy*. Unfortunately Jade didn't win the Award but she felt extremely honoured to be nominated for it.

Recently a member was diagnosed for the second time with breast cancer. Jade leapt into action, organising a one hour class where everyone wore something pink and then everyone spent a couple of hours over coffee and cake raising money for a breast cancer support charity. The total raised was £355 and while this member is unable to attend the gym whilst undergoing chemotherapy, Jade keeps in touch with her.

Despite being in her mid-30s, Jade's music taste is firmly rooted in the 70s and 80s which makes her classes great fun for those of us who love that era. Her love of music from this period comes from her mum's great taste in music.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a friendly and inclusive gym in the village, where the staff and members are all very welcoming to new joiners.

Carole Gray




www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

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You can find more information on our website. If you are unable to access the internet, or need a little extra help, send us an email, give us a call, or pop into the library in Dunmow, Stansted, Thaxted or the Old Schoolhouse in Takeley. If no-one is there, you can still speak to an adviser via our simple one-touch video link. Advice is always free and confidential.

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FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

The church needs your help; I am fundraising for a new boiler to heat the church in winter months. Without a source of heating, it is unlikely that I will hold a Christmas tree festival or carol concert, which is such a shame. Christmas 2024 was the first year that we were unable to hold our popular festival, a huge disappointment to so many people.



My target figure is £11,500 which seems unreachable, but we have already had wonderful donations from two councillors, Stansted WI and friends of the church. We can do this as a village, I am sure. If you can donate to help save St Mary's, no matter how small the amount I would be so very grateful. It is also a very special anniversary year, being 35 years since this beautiful building was declared redundant. It is now one of 356 churches in the Churches Conservation Trust portfolio, but our church is rather special. If you feel that you can help save St Mary's, our bank details are as follows:

Friends of St Mary the Virgin Stansted Mountfitchet
Sort code: 20-36-98 Account no: No 73879410
or by cheque payable to Friends of St Mary the Virgin Stansted Mountfitchet and sent to me at: Church Cottage, Church Road, Stansted CM24 8UB. Thanking you all for your support.



Lynda Dale
Chair
Tel: 07716 099474
Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com

GUESS THE OBJECT 3

Do any readers know what this object is called and what it was 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!

CAPTION COMPETITION

Seeing the picture in last month's caption competition, I wondered whether anyone would come up with any tall jokes like:



A giraffe walked into a bar and the bartender said. "I've warned you before that you need to duck"!

Thankfully your entries were more on message. However, I could not resist asking my friend Mr A Eye to come up with a verse. The best he could do was this *Ode to a Giraffe*:

*Tall as a whisper from clouds in the blue,
Waltzing through treetops like it's déjà vu.
A creature of poise, of mystery, of laughs—
Oh elegant, awkward, majestic giraffe.*

Now for the results ...

In first place comes:

- Peekaboo!
I stuck my neck out for you!
— submitted by A Hall

Then in second and third places come:

- They'll never see me if I hide behind this bush.
— submitted by Sarah Ludlow Elston

and ...

- I think I need a bigger bush!
— submitted by Sarah Ludlow Elston

Thanks again for your entries. If the results smack of nepotism don't blame me!

If any of our readers would like to take an appropriate photo which lends itself to a caption for future editions, we would love to hear from you, using the Editor email address (editor@stanstedlink.org.uk). The photo should ideally be landscape and at least 250 KB in size.



Mike Dyer
Chairman
Stansted Link



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We had hired a hall in Saffron Walden for our March meeting, but we had been given the wrong key, so could not get in. We would all like to give a big thank you to the Lord Butler Fitness and Leisure Centre, who made a room available for us at very short notice, and we ferried all the members over there. Our planned bingo game ended up being the quickest one in Club history, but the evening will certainly be a talking point for some time to come! By the time you read this we will have had our April meeting with Easter crafts to keep everyone entertained. 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



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IN THE GARDEN

Choosing Trees

Trees can be a great asset to the garden if they are chosen well and planted to thrive. Sadly all too often they are planted poorly and die, or species that are just too big for their space end up being cut down as they become a nuisance. Not many of us have the luxury of park size gardens and so here are a few of my favourite trees for small spaces:

- *Amelanchier lamarckii* - new leaves come out red, turn green and then go red again in the autumn. It has white blossom in the spring; see photo
- *Prunus amanogawa* - cherry tree with lovely pink blossom that grows upright in a candle shape, never getting much more than 2m wide
- *Sorbus commixta* Embley - autumn colour and berries plus blossom in the spring, great for wildlife. There are plenty of other sorbus cultivars of merit; avoid the ones that are susceptible to fireblight
- *Acer davidii* Viper- snake bark maple, pretty bark, winged seeds and autumn colour
- *Betula albosinensis* Fascination - I have one of these beauties in my front garden, bark is a pale copper pink colour, great if you do not want to cast too much shade as it has small leaves.



How to Plant a Tree

Dig a square hole twice as wide as the rootball but no deeper. Why square? To make sure the roots do not just travel round and round in the hole without breaking out. Place the stakes to the sides of the rootball, not through it. Backfill with a mix of soil and compost; ensure you can see the flare at the base of the trunk. It is better to plant a tree slightly too high and mound the soil up, rather than plant it too deep. For more guidance on choosing and planting trees speak to Barcham's in Ely.

Anthea Harrison



www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 13th May** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts; coffee will be available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Jane Angelini on *Venice and the Contribution of Venetian Women*.



Venice is, quite simply, the most beautiful city in the world. A thousand years of independence, of sailing and trading, many centuries of a flourishing commercial empire and a unique position, have resulted in the harmonious growth of a beautiful entity. La Serenissima, the most serene city, holds an appeal which goes far beyond the sum of its many palaces, churches and monuments. Come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed. Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation of £7, cash or cheque please. Our membership secretary is Sue Chapman tel 508542, email: info@tasbs.org.uk.

Michael Fitch



**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk

Our March meeting, held at the Touchpoint centre, was very well attended and was given by Lynda Dale who is one of our members. For some years, particularly since Covid, she has looked after the churchyard of one of Stansted's most beloved sites, St Mary's Church. Sadly, the church is no longer used for regular services, but the graveyard contains a great deal of history about past residents who contributed to the wonderful history of our village.

It all started when on clearing some stinging nettles Lynda discovered the grave of a baby, Herbert Watson, who died in 1901 aged just four months; this was the catalyst for much of the work Lynda has undertaken since. She and her fellow helpers have discovered some 53 other graves and have added several bird boxes, insect houses and plants to enhance the site; she is always happy to welcome new people to help with this work. Anyone who has sat by the church wall in this most tranquil, peaceful of settings can appreciate both the beauty of the church and the wonderful work of maintaining the churchyard; we all thank Lynda for the dedication she continues to show on behalf of the community. The next and last meeting of this year's calendar will be on **Thursday 1st May** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint and will be our AGM followed by a short talk.

Edward Taub
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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

Commemorating 80 years since VE Day

As retirees, u3a members tend to be from the over 60 age group. Therefore a good number of our members are from the post-war generation and have been brought up in the immediate aftermath of WWII, surrounded by those who had not only lived through the conflict but also served in some way. We are baby-boomers, raised during an era of hope and promise for peace and prosperity, and the last generation to have a direct connection to those who strove to retain our freedom from tyranny. This May, when the whole of Europe remembers and celebrates 80 years since victory was declared on 8th May 1945, we feel it is important that we too honour those who served: our parents, uncles, aunts, family members and friends, and to share their stories and memories.

Alongside a Saturday Seminar on **3rd May** by David Morson entitled *World War II: the Perspective of Empire*, we will be holding a small exhibition of personal memorabilia curated from our members' archive material. The seminar will be a ticket-only event, but from 1.00pm-3.00pm the exhibition will be available to view by all u3a members. The seminar and exhibition will both be in St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane.



Following their well-received presentation in April last year on the wildlife of Brazil, Graham and Mary Brace will return to present stunning photos of wildlife in different Indian locations at our general meeting on **Thursday 15th May** 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre. New members are always very welcome. Please see our website or tel: 07874 385541 to find out more information about the variety of activities we have on offer.

Susan Sedgebeer

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI

Brian Carline was the speaker at our March meeting; he told us that the unusual topic of Dolly Blue and Izal originated from his early life in Salford when as a lively young boy he and a friend threw stones at a hornet's nest which resulted in them both being severely stung. His mother's remedy was to dunk them in a bath of water containing several Dolly blue bags which was painful but effective.



He also covered several memories of the '40s and onwards which many members identified with, especially some of the more dubious health remedies. His talk was highly entertaining and his comic delivery was greatly enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 8th May** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint. We will have a fun evening celebrating VE day. The competition is anything in WI colours, ie green and white.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Now that the warmer weather is with us, why not 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, *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. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. There is limited parking behind the church. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

As both a priest and a motorcyclist, I find a kindred spirit in Saint Columbanus, an Irish monk with the soul of an adventurer and the heart of a pilgrim, as well as the patron saint of motorcyclists. Born in 6th-century Ireland, Columbanus left the safety of his monastery and rode out (well, walked) into the unknown. With a band of fellow monks, he crossed wild forests and mountain passes, preaching the Gospel through what is now France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy. It was dangerous, unpredictable, and filled with spiritual purpose, much like a good motorbike ride.

What draws me most to Columbanus is his restless spirit, which was never content with comfort or status. He believed in faith in motion; that we find God not only in the silence of prayer but in the act of going, meeting, building, and sometimes even challenging the powers that be. He had plenty of fire in his belly, and was not afraid to be unpopular if it meant staying true to Christ.

When I am out on my bike, I often think of him: the wind as prayer, the road as pilgrimage. Columbanus reminds me that faith should be fearless and the Church always journeying forwards.

So, whether you ride a Harley or a pushbike, or even just wander in your thoughts, may Saint Columbanus be a guide. A saint for seekers, for doers, and for those who know that faith is a journey best taken with courage.



Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather
Priest in Charge, St John's Church



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Email: frclementorango@brcdt.org

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

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6.00pm Mass
Sunday 8.30am Mass
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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 May

4th 10.30am Richard Lewney - New Directions
11th 10.30am Rev'd Frank Okai-Sam - Communion
18th 10.30am Jerry Heyhoe
25th 10.30am Len Ward

Farewell to Betty

Recently we said a fond farewell to Betty Francis who is moving away from the area to be nearer one of her sons. Betty has been involved with the Methodist and URC (formerly Congregational) churches in Stansted all her life. After the service, she was presented with flowers and a token, and there was a special cake for everyone to enjoy with their coffee.



After they were married and settled in Ugley Green, Betty's parents went to Stansted Methodist Church, which was at the old Friends Meeting House, and Betty was baptised there. At that time, the congregation were fairly elderly, the only children being Betty and her brother. As they approached secondary school age, their parents decided that it would be good to go to a church with an active Sunday school and children of a similar age; so they moved down the hill to the Congregational Church, which later became the United Reformed Church, and in 2006 joined with Stansted Methodist Church to form Stansted Free Church. Betty has always played a very active role in church life and will be very much missed.



All enquiries The Church Office, St John's Hall,
Including Church St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP
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Email: stansted.church.office@gmail.com
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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.

St John's Churchyard

Several villagers have expressed interest in the reasoning behind the removal of lime trees at the entrance to St John's churchyard. For some time there has been concern that these trees have been growing in such a way that they have become very difficult to control, having developed abundant growth at the base of the trees. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St John's took advice from arborologists about the condition of the lime trees and, after discussion, voted at their 30th September 2024 meeting in favour of removing the trees, subject to ensuring that all necessary procedures were followed regarding tree preservation orders etc. Permission was sought from the District Council to remove the trees and upon receipt of this authority, the work to remove the trees went ahead. It is interesting to note that an arborologist told the PCC some time ago that the beautiful yew tree which stands in the church grounds would thrive if the lime trees were removed.

Kathy West
On behalf of St John's PCC

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RSPB

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

Our midweek walks are a popular feature of our programme and May sees a change from day time to early evening. On **Wednesday 7th May** at 6.00pm we plan to meet at Margaret Street Car Park, Thaxted CM6 2QN. Our four-mile circular route uses secluded, shaded paths and includes the river Chelmer and spectacular views of the Thaxted windmill. There is a good selection of venues for post walk refreshment in Thaxted.



For our monthly meeting on **Tuesday 13th May** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA, we welcome Matt Merritt who is the editor of *Bird Watching*, the best-selling magazine of its genre in Britain. His talk will feature his publication's home patch which is around Peterborough. This includes the main sites that regularly feature in the *Weedon's World* column in the magazine, as well as one or two others that feature regularly.

Our monthly programme concludes on **Saturday 17th May** at 10.00am with a planned visit to RSPB Minsmere, Westleton IP17 3BY. At the time of writing this is very likely to be changed. Any changes will be publicised by email and on the website. If in doubt please contact me to check.

Peter Allen
Tel: 07800 896516
Email: peter2349@sky.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 6th May at 8.00pm** in The Dog and Duck, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *The Housekeepers* by Alex Hay. The novel follows Mrs King, dismissed from her position as housekeeper to a grand house in Mayfair, who plans a revenge heist together with her team. On the night of a great ball, they set out to strip the house of its contents and every one of its possessions. 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



RECYCLING



Sunglasses not Recycled

Thank you to everyone who has donated spectacles. Please note that we do not accept sunglasses unless they are prescription ones. We continue to collect foreign and old UK coins (**not** banknotes) 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



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Grove Cottage is walking with the Helping Herts founders for 13 miles across the beautiful countryside near Bishop's Stortford on **Monday 12th May** starting at 9.30am near the Bishop's Park Tesco. Everyone is welcome to join us: individuals, community and corporate groups.



By taking part, your sponsorship will help ensure we continue providing vital services for our members, in turn helping them to live enriched lives. All monies raised will be match funded by Helping Herts. Please email Mina on mina@mencapgrovecottage.org if you would like to take part.

Alison Cameron
Tel: 651908
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STANSTED SCOUTS

The month of March always heralds the start to our outdoor adventures. From 7th-9th March, 15 scouts and six leaders attended Skreens Park near Chelmsford. The event was county backpack, map reading to bases then perform a small task. After completing they then plot a course to the next base, all point scored.



A great weekend spent in the beautiful Essex countryside with your mates and exceptionally warm weather as a bonus, beats video games any day. They all completed their expedition challenge award, which is one more step towards the gold award. Thank you to my helpers for the weekend: Kane, Angela, Niahm, Charlotte and Dave. Does this sound exciting? Something you would like to do? We always welcome new scouts and leaders.

Mark Presland
Scout Leader

Email: stanstedscouts.hotmail.co.uk



SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.com

As you may have noticed, the scaffolding around the Club building has now been removed. We needed extensive roof, window and soffit repairs; the building is now in much better condition and will last for many years to come. Touchpoint food share is still going strong; they provide food at the Club on Wednesdays 2.30pm-3.15pm. They have other venues, check out this link for further details: www.thetouchpoint.org/the-touchpoint-community-food-share. Remember, this is food share not a food bank so everybody is welcome.

The entertainment schedule is packed for May. We kick-off with an *Elton John* tribute on **Saturday 3rd**, followed by *Frankie Rockin' Smith* on **Monday 5th**, the early May Bank Holiday. **Saturday 10th** sees the return of our fabulous *George Michael* tribute and we welcome DAN DC who will be performing a selection of covers on **Sunday 11th**. We have a *Celine Dion* tribute show on **Saturday 17th** which is followed on **Sunday 18th** by a *Frank Sinatra* tribute. **Saturday**

24th sees a newcomer to the Club: *So Eighties* will be banging out your favourite tunes from the decade! **Monday 26th** sees another Bank Holiday and the return of one of the best tribute acts on the circuit as Ryan stars as *Olly Murs*. Karaoke is back on **Friday 30th** with Martin from *Cloud 9*, and we round off the month on **Saturday 31st** with a monster performance from *Big 10*. Events on Saturdays usually start between 8.00pm and 9.00pm and on Sundays between 3.00pm and 3.30pm, after the meat raffle. Entrance is free for members, £10 for non-members.

Andrew Sharpe
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com



HATFIELD FOREST

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hatfield-forest

May at the Forest

You can walk in our meadows at any time of the year. If you visit in May, you will see them carpeted with over 300 million buttercups. There are so many that your boots may turn golden yellow!



Photo by David Levenson, National Trust Images

On **Friday 23rd May** we are launching some new forest walks which are both informative and good for your wellbeing. Our *Houblons and Hornbeams* walks are free and an excellent way to discover the fascinating history of this ancient hunting forest. Booking is essential via our website; just click on *events* where you will also find details of a number of classes for all ages including *Yoga*, *Parent and Child Mindfulness*, *Breathwork* and *Forest Bathing*. For those who like to write and record their experience, we have *Breathe and Journal* and *Creative Writing for Mindfulness*. Course prices range from £10-£20. We are now fully open daily with car park entry from 9.00am and last entry by car at 4.00pm. We usually have three car parks open including Elgins, the grass car park. The café remains open until 4.30pm so you can buy a hot drink and food after you have entered the forest; we ask that you leave by dusk.

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

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

...with news of Manor Road flats, VE Day events, the 2025 Litter Pick, roadworks, a call for some new faces on the Parish Council, and what council reform could mean for Stansted

Manor Road Flats Update

A new contractor has taken over remedial work

| Axis have been tasked to complete all repairs by September



In what appears to be some good news about the Manor Road flats, a new contractor has been hired by Uttleford District Council to fix the water-damaged properties that are plagued by damp, black mould, leaks and power outages.

The existing contractor Norse was replaced by Axis in April. They have been set the task of completing all outstanding remedial work at the properties by September. This will involve fixing balconies and roofs and conducting internal surveys to assess the scope of remedial work needed to get on top of the damp and mould at the Manor Road flats.

District Councillors Ray Gooding and Geoffrey Sell, along with the Parish Council, have been pressing Uttleford to address the shocking conditions faced by the private leaseholders and council tenants living there. The flats made the local press in November when a mother and her two teenage boys were left to suffer the downpours of Storm Bert with no roof! The District Council maintain that a scheme is in place to bring living conditions back to a healthy standard. Others are not confident this is possible.

"In reality these blocks are beyond their economic life but there is a continued reluctance by UDC to do anything other than superficial repairs that will delay the inevitable need to replace these buildings in their entirety," says Parish and District Councillor Sell.

Events: 80th Anniversary of VE Day



Afternoon Tea

Live music, FREE food and refreshments are being laid on for elderly residents at St John's Hall on Saturday, 3rd May

Ahead of nation-wide celebrations on May 8th to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the Parish Council has organised a special afternoon tea for people living in the village who were born before 1950, as well as residents of Hargrave House Care Home, the Mountfitchet House Care Home, Broome End Care Home and Norman Court. Not only will there be plenty of food and refreshments at St John's Hall for attendees, but personnel from Carver Barracks will also be present and, to get everyone in the mood, there will be live music from 1940s close harmony group, The Rockettes.

This is a FREE event but to help caterers and manage the limited capacity of 120, attendees and people accompanying them (including carers) will need tickets for admission. These can be obtained at 72 Chapel Hill — both from TouchPoint and from the Parish Council offices at Mountfitchet Exchange.



The Rockettes

Beacon Lighting Service

The second commemorative event to mark 80 years since VE Day is a beacon lighting service in the Memorial Gardens at 8.30pm on Thursday, May 8th. This service is open to everyone and will be led by Rev Dr Colin Fairweather of St John's Church, a co-host and organiser along with SMPC.



Community Litter Pick 2025



We would like to thank the posse of residents and Parish Councillors who turned out for our Community Litter Pick at the start of April. Despite being low on numbers — just 12 in total — they bagged a similar amount of rubbish as last year. Approximately 20 bags were filled with Stoney Common, Lower Street car park, Church Road, Pennington Lane and Silver Street benefiting from the pick. Our eagle-eyed volunteers also reported in two spots of fly-tipping along Mountfitchet Road, and a pile of discarded drug paraphernalia close to the rail track by Elms Farm. The District Council's environmental health services and Essex police have since been informed.

Trimming Trees



Last month our contractor Longacre Tree Surgery began work chopping, clearing and pruning some of the over 200 trees looked after by SMPC in the village. Every three years a survey is conducted to ensure the safety of the public and maintain the health of our tree stock. The last survey was completed in 2024. Longacre expect to finish their work by summer's end.

Tree House on the Chopping Block?

A decision is pending on the tree house at the Recreation Ground. The Open Spaces committee has three options: dismantlement (£2.5k-£3k), replacement (up to £50k) or repairs (£10k). Option Two is costly — there is no money to cover the match funding needed to get suitable grants, let alone to cover health & safety and future repair costs. Option Three may extend the use of the Tree House, but by just two years. Which leaves Option One



Roadworks: Grove Hill & Chapel Hill

B1051 shut through to early July

Twelve months of road closures in and around Stansted Mountfitchet appear set to ease — unless you are travelling into the village down Grove Hill



Grove Hill remains shut in May because of roadworks now being carried out further up the B1051 towards Elsenham by Affinity Water. This closure, which began back in February, is due to end on 3rd of July.

Meanwhile the wait for improvements along the remaining side of the carriageway on Chapel Hill continues. Back in February, the east-bound side of the road was resurfaced. This was done as part of Essex Highways' £25 million Priority One campaign. Under this scheme as many areas most in need of repair, identified by residents across Essex, were to be fixed "using the available budget." Residents along Chapel Hill have now waited in vain on three separate nights for work to be completed. Initially Essex Highways cited the extension of utilities work in the area nearby for the postponement. The agency has now written to say the resurfacing will be done "as soon as possible" in 2025/26.

The Future Highways online map, on which the Parish Council depends for much of its roadworks news, indicates the spate of long road closures that have afflicted Stansted for 12 months or more appear to be subsiding. A three-week closure of Lower Street/High Lane from 7 July to 1 August seems to be the sole dark shadow on the horizon. For now at least.

► essexhighways.org/live-traffic-map

Parish Council Grants

Applications invited from local organisation

Over £7,000 has been set aside in 2025/26 to support local groups that run services for the community

Applications for community grants are coming in thick and fast. The Finance & General Purposes committee in April considered three grant requests: Stansted & Elsenham Cricket Club (£440), Uttleford Community Travel (£2,500) and Buffy Play Bus (£350). If you would like money to spruce up your club house or pay for a social event, why not download an application form and have a read of the SMPC Grant Policy? All grant requests are assessed on their merit, but providing the necessary criteria have been met, approvals operate on a first-come, first-served basis. So don't delay.

► stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/community-grants/



Applications Welcome

Join the Parish Council!

Community-minded Individuals Wanted

In March we accepted the resignation of Lois Prior as a Parish Councillor. This was followed last month by news that Sanjukta Ghosh had decided to step down from the Full Council too. We would like to thank both for their time working on behalf of the community at SMPC.

Because a position remained unfilled after local elections in April 2023, these two recent departures mean there are three vacancies now in the Council chamber that we are seeking to recruit for.

What does it take to be Parish Councillor?

Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position. There are no special requirements to do the role beyond being a good communicator, a team player, and open minded. You don't need to be part of a political party either. The focus is on serving the community at a grass roots level. Our councillors come from all walks of life, young and old, working and retired. They reflect the people they serve and share one thing — a desire to make the right decisions on behalf of Stansted and its 8,600 residents.

Making Stansted a better place to live

To do this, you will be asked to take decisions on behalf of the community by serving on our committees, sub-committees or working groups. The two main committees meet every 6 weeks, with other meetings less frequent. In addition, you will need to make space in your diary every 3 weeks for the Full Council meeting. At these you will be helping the Parish Council choose where money gets spent, form its views on planning applications, and initiate ways to make the village a better place to live.

Join us and get things done

From the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations to the King's Coronation to last November's fireworks display — Parish Councillors regularly deliver, or assist with, highly successful events for thousands of residents. Parish Councillors put money to good use and are rightly proud to back groups like TouchPoint. Obviously not everything is plain sailing, and part of being a Parish Councillor means sometimes making tough decisions — money is tight for all councils, after all. But if you would like to be a part of shaping Stansted's future, then joining the Parish Council offers a brilliant way to do so.

Where can I find out more?

You can discover more about what being a Parish Councillor involves and how to apply for a vacancy by downloading our Co-option pack on our website.

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

Devolution & Council Services

Local Council reorganisation and Parish Councils

SMPC is talking with neighbouring Parish Councils on what local authority reform could mean for their communities

The Parish Council has been exploring with Birchanger, Henham and Elsenham what, if any, extra services could be run for their communities in the future.

Currently Parish Councils have the responsibility to provide services like allotments, community halls, play areas and the village cemetery. But should, as seems likely, the county council and the district council be broken up in the next few years, there could be opportunities to take on more services for SMPC.



More responsibility for flood prevention could be heading the Parish Council's way

For example, reform of the two-tier council system as mapped out by the government in February could see SMPC invited to run car parks, do more flood prevention work, and possibly the library. Whether it is cost effective to do so is a moot point. It is not clear whether any money is on the table for the Parish Council should it take up any invite.

Talks with nearby Parish Councils are underway and offer a chance to gauge how much shared interest there is to deliver more services for local communities. "Henham and Elsenham are pondering their thoughts on the reorganisation/devolution agenda after our initial meetings," says SMPC Chair Maureen Caton. "Birchanger feel they do not have a large enough area of delivery to warrant them partnering any future service delivery arrangements."

Deadline for Postal Voting

Re-registration required by 31 January 2026

People who participate in elections by postal vote now need to register every three years

Changes to postal voting following the introduction of the Elections Act 2022 mean that postal vote applications now only last three years.

Uttleford District Council, as the local authority with responsibility for the electoral roll in our area, has begun contacting the registered postal voters it has email addresses for. They will be asked to re-apply at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote before next January or lose their right to a postal vote. The district council hopes to have contacted all those affected by June when the re-registration process formally gets underway, and emails and letters will again be sent to existing registered postal voters.

If someone is not confident in registering online, or doesn't have access to the internet, they are encouraged to ask a friend or relative to help them or they can visit Uttleford's offices in Off on Walden where council officers will do this for them. A signature has to be uploaded. On request Uttleford will post out paper applications as a third option

▶ <https://www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote>

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:

14th May Full Council

21st May Finance & General Purposes committee

28th May Full Council

UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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Geoffrey SELL

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Ray GOODING

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Nick CHURCH

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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

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Meet-up Events:

Let's Talk Fraud Prevention

Norman's Court from 10am-11am **6th May**

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, May 1st** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing, job training and support to overcome addiction

TOUCHPOINT, STANSTED

The community wellbeing project runs a variety of clubs, groups and activities from 72 Chapel Hill where you can socialise, get help, access training, and fill up your larder for free! **Food shares** Stansted Social Club Wed 2.30-3.15pm, Thursdays Crafton Green 10am-5pm, Fridays 1-2pm Saturdays 10-11am; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-12pm; **Free hot meals** on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 9am-10am. Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

GARDEN WASTE SKIP SERVICE

The parish-council funded garden waste service 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 on Sundays 11th May and 25th May



Village Defibrillators

Defibrillators in yellow on the map are accessible 24/7. Ones in orange are only available during the working hours of the place they are sited at.

How to use a Defib

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2. Remove all clothing from patient's chest.
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NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Our year got off to a flying start on 19th February with a demonstration from National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) floral demonstrator, Rachael Borenkova who designed six wonderful arrangements on *Let's go to the Flower Shop*.



On 19th March we welcomed Gill McGregor; her title *March Floral Marvel* and her arrangements were truly outstanding. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 21st May** with a demonstration by Elizabeth Robertson on *Life's Rich Colours*. Please come along and bring a friend.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, except January, August, and December, at 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

Patricia Sanz

Email: flowersanzp2020@gmail.com



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

A barn is essential for a working farm, to store produce, tools and machinery and to house livestock. The Society has many fine examples of ancient barns which are still in use today, albeit sometimes for a purpose not envisaged when they were built. Some have been converted into homes while others have quite varied new uses. In 1994, Thorley church purchased a dilapidated 16th century barn which, following restoration, opened for community use as St Barnabas Centre. At Duddenhoe End, the thatched Hamlet Church started life as a barn. Ashdon village hall and Westmill village hall, shown below, both began life as barns in the 17th century.



Great Bardfield and Great Saling each have an ancient barn that has been converted into a retail outlet with café, respectively The Blue Egg and Timbers. In Chrishall, the Red

Cow pub offers accommodation in the adjacent 500-year-old thatched barn. In Little Easton, the Countess of Warwick converted one of her barns into the Barn Theatre. It was used by many famous performers of the early 1900s and still occasionally serves that purpose, on other days being part of a tearoom and events venue called Little Easton Manor. In Great Bardfield, a Grade-I listed, 16th century brick barn at Great Lodge now serves as the Anne of Cleves Barn wedding venue.

In Widdington, Grade I listed Priors Hall Barn is a fine example of a medieval barn, dating from the 14th century and now owned by English Heritage. It is said that 400 oak trees were used in its construction. The large doors on either side could be opened for threshing, with the draught blowing the husks away from the grain. Priors Hall Barn is free to visit, open at weekends from April to September.



Ken McDonald

Secretary

Tel: 813226

Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



RIDE FOR HELEN ESSEX

www.helenrollason.org.uk

Ride for Helen Essex, in aid of the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, is on **Sunday 11th May** at the stunning Crix Estate in Hatfield Peverel. It is the county's largest and most exciting cycling event.



Celebrating its 11th year with a fantastic day out for all ages and fitness levels, participants can choose from six scenic routes ranging from 6 to 100 miles, all set against breathtaking countryside. With a buzzing event hub, dedicated marshals, refreshments, and a prestigious medal for all riders, it is an unmissable experience. Tickets: adults £25.00, children £12.00. You can book online until 9th May or on the day.

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BEES AND BUGS

I am glad to report that all my hives have overwintered very well. With warmer weather and temperatures of 12° C for most of the daylight hours, bees have had a chance to get a really good start to the year. In the hive the queen has moved down and has started to lay eggs; the pollen coming into the hive has stimulated that. What commercial beekeepers do is provide pollen and sugar water unnaturally early to stimulate the same behaviour. The bees that have over-wintered will now be working their utmost to get nectar in as well as pollen. They will start making beebread, to feed the new pupae which are very vulnerable to predation, as there are not hordes of bees yet to defend the hive. However, they have the advantage of having an early start over most of their predators, like wasps, who have been hibernating and have a bit of a slow start.



As wasps are predominantly meat eaters they need to come out of hibernation when there are more bugs about for them to eat. Yes, they are actually the gardener's friend as they eat most of the garden pests. However, they are rather nasty. At this time the bees are not interested in rebuilding their stock of honey, they just need to build up their numbers with the aim of being able to defend the hive and swarm as soon as they can. When they swarm, they get a new queen, one who is vibrant and ready to procreate. If you think of a colony as one body, by swarming they make two bodies. This is the cycle of life, to go forth and multiply.

Kevin Hancock

Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com



www.saffronsymphony.org

The orchestra returns with a concert of English music on **Sunday 11th May** at 3.00pm in Saffron Hall. The programme includes Weber *Clarinet Concerto No 2* featuring 2024 Senior Barker Bursary winner Evan Badcock; Vaughan Williams *London Symphony*; and Frank Bridge's rarely performed impressionistic tone poem *The Sea*. Tickets: adults £18 and £21, 18-25 years £11, under 18s £6 available from www.saffronhall.com or tel 0845 548 7650.



Marion Dyer

HOW MUCH MONOPOLY MONEY HAS EVER BEEN MADE?

We all need to know. I started by counting all the notes in a box of Monopoly. I found 45 £1 notes, 21 £5 notes, 21 £10 notes, 13 £20 notes, 13 £50 notes, 37 £100 notes, and 18 £500 notes, summing to a measly total of £13,970. Google's claim that 275 million copies have been made in the history of all humanity allows us to calculate that the answer to this preposterous question is at least £3,841,750,000,000. That is enough to give every British citizen £56,207.02 of money which they can never spend, because it is all worthless. I am glad to have gone through this pointless, time-wasting process.

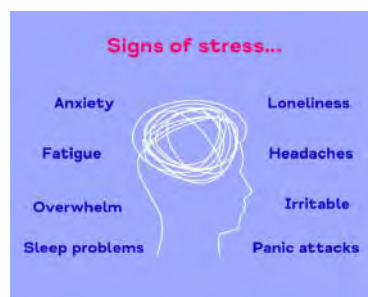
The Funky Chicken

Age 11



www.letstalkstansted.org

Stress is something that many of us experience daily and public initiatives enable us to recognise the cause and antidotes to stress. This year the theme of the initiative is *Lead with Love*. The aim is to encourage everyone to approach others with kindness, compassion, and acceptance, as well as with a friendly listening ear. What can be more difficult, but is equally important, is to show ourselves the same kind of love that we offer to others. This can be through carving out time every day, even for just a few minutes, for some self-care, whatever that looks like for you, and also by trying to keep our inner voice positive, supportive and kind.



Walking is a proven way to reduce stress and May is designated *National Walking Month*. If you do not like walking alone, there are a variety of walking groups in Stansted, including our Muddy Walkers, which meets every Thursday at

7.30pm in front of the Co-op for an hour's walk around the local area. It is a lovely way to chat and improve your physical fitness, whilst making new connections and friendships and perhaps even discovering some unknown locations around the village.

On **Tuesday 20th May** at 7.30pm, upstairs in the Social Club, we will be holding our annual meeting; we will discuss what we have been doing to support and enhance the mental wellbeing of Stansted and surrounding villages. More importantly, **we want to hear from you!** Do you have some fresh ideas for other ways that we can provide our services, or other initiatives that we could offer? We would love you to join in the discussion. As always, if you need to talk, we are here to listen.

Dina McDonald

Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org

We are celebrating Songwriters Week, starting on **Tuesday 6th May** at 7.00pm, kicking off with a *Retune Workshop*. Retune is a Bishop's Stortford-based charity that inspires its audience to improve their mental health through creative outlets such as music and the arts. The charity runs mental wellbeing workshops which include singing, writing, drawing, song-writing and plenty of participation. Attendees will learn self-help strategies to boost resilience and mood. Tickets: £10.

On **Wednesday 7th May** at 2.00pm and 7.00pm, we will be screening *A Complete Unknown*, a biographical musical drama depicting the story of American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan. Tickets: £10 and £15.



On **Thursday 8th May**, join us in celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, starting at the Bishop's Stortford War Memorial at 10.50am for the Remembrance Service. Then join us at 2.00pm in South Mill Arts where The Royal British Legion will be holding an afternoon quiz (limited space left). At 7.00pm live from the theatre, *Five Star Swing* joins us. This is a unique 1940s Blitz show and dance band which featured at Dame Vera Lynn's charity gala nights. The band will bring famous wartime tunes and sing-a-long songs to life. Tickets for the band: £20.

We finish the week on **Friday 9th May** at 8.00pm with *OASIS-A Tribute to Oasis*. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the release of *What's the Story, Morning Glory*, OASIS is embarking on a 2025 UK tour and this is your chance to see them in top form. Tickets: £25.50. For more information about everything that is happening at South Mill Arts this season, please see our website or call 710200.

Seren Stephen
Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk

May is a lovely month with flowers everywhere, such as alliums, foxgloves, irises and roses. The Italian garden beds are lined with helianthemum and the herb border in the walled kitchen garden is in flower. There may also still be blossom, deep pink hawthorn in the glade and purple rhododendrons in the Japanese garden. There are wild-flowers too, the last of the bluebells at the beginning of the month, followed by orchids and the wafting cow parsley in Laburnum Walk.



Marking the end of WWII in Europe on 8th May 1945 was a hugely significant day for the airmen and women at Easton Lodge, as elsewhere. The 80th anniversary of VE Day falls on a Thursday so the gardens will be open for those who wish to reflect on the significance of this day in a tranquil environment. Our history of the airfield will be on display, with photos and stories of those involved. The gardens are open from 11.00am-3.00pm, with hot and cold drinks and home-made cakes available from our refreshments kiosk. Visitors can chat to our volunteer gardeners and buy our seasonal produce.

Our Open Day on **Sunday 18th May** 11.00am-5.00pm, with last entry at 4.30pm, will focus on Easton Lodge's Tudor history. Queen Elizabeth I granted the estate at Little Easton to Henry Maynard in 1590. Our archivists will present a special display and there will be a range of fun activities for children, including archery for the older or stronger ones, provided by White Dragon archery and making cordage bangles, with Discover Bushcraft. Colchester Waits will play Tudor music on shawms, bagpipes, fiddles and recorders. There will be Tudor foods to sample and a range of stalls. There is more information and links to advance booking of tickets on our website.

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

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AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

The first butterflies that we see each spring will be one of the species that have over-wintered as an adult. Often the first seen is the brimstone. They spend the winter hidden amongst evergreen foliage and emerge on a sunny day. We see the bright yellow male flying as it establishes a territory and looks for the much less conspicuous female which is a very pale green colour. The other early butterflies we are likely to see are the small tortoiseshell and the peacock. Both actively seek sheds and other outbuildings as places to hibernate. We have to be careful in the nature reserve's shed during winter as there are always hibernating butterflies on the underside of wooden panels or even the wheelbarrow. If you find them in your shed they are best left undisturbed; they should find their own way out when ready.



The peacock butterfly has dark camouflaged undersides that conceal it from predators as a first line of defence. If disturbed, the second line of defence is to flash the wings open to reveal bright eye spots whilst simultaneously rubbing the forewings against the hindwings to produce a hissing sound. In this way it hopes to frighten away an approaching mouse or bird which might otherwise eat it.

I made a new and exciting discovery in the reserve. On a sunny April morning I was on the path carefully studying some small disturbances in the pond and expecting to see a frog or toad. However, what I did see was a water shrew hunting for invertebrates under the water and then popping out onto a log to eat its meal. Take your time and keep quiet and you may also see this lovely little creature.

John Welham
Warden

Email: johnathonwelham@gmail.com



QUENDON BOWLING CLUB

www.lovebowls.co.uk/club/quendonbc

We are racing ahead for the start of the summer season; we have had our first gala of the year and our Captains v Presidents match. Fixtures will be coming thick and fast. For a full list of fixtures please check our website or Facebook page for details. Anyone interested in having a go at bowls is more than welcome to come along on either **Saturday 24th or Sunday 25th May**, for a taster session with one of our members. The bar will be open at subsidised prices, which is another good reason to pop along to our wonderful Club.

Whilst we are always on the lookout for new players, we also would like to invite anyone with green fingers who has a spare couple of hours a week to help get and keep our garden in order. Payment will be tea and biscuits or maybe even a cheeky bacon roll. If interested please contact me for further information.

Bill Hampton
Chairman

Email: quendonbc@yahoo.com



Welcome to Compost Corner!

The old saying *many hands make light work* was certainly true at Human Roots last month. Our annual delivery of compost looked a little daunting at first, but with the usual positive attitude and a smooth working system, the volunteer team soon warmed to the task of filling the beds with the rich looking compost. I must say it is great fun when we all get together. April and May are known as the *hungry gap* when there is very little to harvest. We share out the seeds and discuss who grows what; this really is when the excitement and the friendly competitiveness starts to build.



Alex, one of the volunteers, has been at it again, this time networking with a local business. She managed to secure a free source of coffee grounds from Sanjay who works at the airport Novotel, to whom we are hugely grateful. Coffee grounds are good at adding nitrogen nutrients to the soil and may improve water retention too. Coffee grounds are slightly acidic so best sprinkled around the plants and not seedlings. Plants like blueberries and azaleas may benefit the most. 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.

Great News

We are delighted to announce that Human Roots has been granted funding through Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund. We are thrilled with their generosity; watch this space as to how we plan to use the funds!

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

After a successful winter nets session at Herts and Essex Cricket Centre (HECC) in Sawbridgeworth, the Club will resume league matches for the 1st and 2nd XI teams on **Saturday 3rd May**. Chairman and opening bowler, Matt Abbotson, has unfortunately broken his body for the second consecutive season; we are seeking new bowling and batting recruits. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact Ben Sammons 07852 510330. Players of all abilities are welcome!



Hardball training for U12s-U15s begins on **Monday 5th May** and softball training for Years 1–6 starts on **Friday 9th May**. The cost for the season is £35 per child, with a discounted rate of £20 for each additional sibling. Sessions will be led by our experienced coaching team. For junior enquiries, please contact Matt Cope on 07583 106408. Parents are welcome to enjoy a drink in our Clubhouse and bar, which was renovated at the start of last season. We are raising funds for new nets; donations are greatly appreciated and the link to donate is <https://gofund.me/f5dece28>. Russell Property and Belcom remain proud sponsors of the Club. We are always looking for new sponsorship opportunities, so if you are interested in supporting us, please contact Dan Freegard on 07493 047494. We look forward to another exciting season and welcome new members and supporters.

Emiel Pronk

Sub fielder

Tel: 07429 058203

Email: emiel.pronk@icloud.com



STANSTED BOWLING CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

With three men's teams and a very active ladies' team there is no shortage of action at the Club. Most afternoons or evenings one of the teams will be active. Every Friday evening now we run the Emerson Cup matches; we always have at least one rink free for roll-ups or newcomers to have a go. Which brings me to mention that none of this is possible without new members coming into the Club. Some may not want to play but would enjoy some of the support tasks necessary to help the Club keep going. Email me if you are interested in bowling or helping out in some way.

If you fancy being part of a friendly club which offers a subsidised bar, lots of banter and other activities for you to get involved in, then drop me an email and I will help answer your questions and get you started. Please see our website for further information.

Peter Beattie

Hon Secretary

Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

Everything at our grounds has been prepared and they are looking very good for the matches ahead. The senior indoor net sessions have finished and coaching has started.

Coaching details

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Seniors | Wednesday | 6.30pm | Stansted House |
| U15s and U13s | Tues and Thurs | 6.30pm | Molehill Green |
| U14s | Friday | 6.30pm | Stansted House |
| U11s | Friday | 6.00pm | Molehill Green |
| All Stars | Friday | 5.30pm | Stansted House |

Note: All Stars have eight sessions, starting on Friday 9th May. All timings are very dependent on the many league matches that are being arranged.

Many congratulations to Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club on its 200th anniversary this year. Over the years our Club has benefited from the town club when players have decided to take a step down from either travelling too far or just want a less serious cricketing experience: Adrian Brown, Keith Wheatley, Nigel Witherden and Ted Natley just to name a few. We will be holding an evening music quiz in June; something else to look forward to. If you have any interest in joining the Club please contact me.



David Brown

Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663

Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com



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: danw.tennis@gmail.com. Junior after-school tennis sessions are held on Wednesdays 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

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

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| 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 |
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| Explorer Scouts | Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715 | Stansted Cricket Club (Adults) | Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com |
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| Classical concerts | Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk | WI (Stansted) | Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241 |
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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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| | | | | Ray on the Hill | 24 | | | |
| | | | | Finch and Son | OBC | | | |
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| | J Day & Son (Stonemason) | 8 | Preschool | Rainbow Pre-School | 16 | | | |
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| | D Honour & Son Landscapes | OBC | | Mowtivated | 16 | | | |
| | Greenscroft Fencing | 16 | | | | | | |
| | Langthorns Plantery | 16 | | | | | | |
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| | The Secret Gardener | 16 | | | | | | |



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