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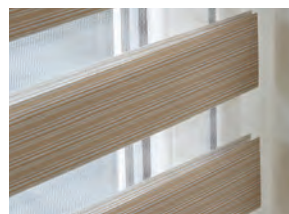
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**Front cover**

Diwali

by Elizabeth Oakley

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

**The Link**[www.stanstedlink.org.uk](http://www.stanstedlink.org.uk)

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE**

Please email: [editor@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanstedlink.org.uk) by noon on **9th Oct.** Word attachment or typed into an email, maximum 300 words; photographs **min 250KB, preferably landscape**, as separate jpg. Articles may subject to editing.

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## EDITORIAL



The festival of Diwali is celebrated between mid-October and mid-November; this year it falls on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Many thanks to Raj and Rita Sraan for taking the trouble to dress in traditional costume for the front cover this month, and for writing the article on page 3, which explains the origins and meaning of this time-honoured global festival. If there are other Stansted residents who adhere to another non-Christian faith, and would like to submit an article about your religious celebrations, that would be great.

Many of us have lost loved ones, recently or long ago. If you would like to commemorate these special people, the annual *In Loving Memory* service is in early November; see page 19 for details. For those of you who enjoy taking photographs, there is a chance for you to contribute a picture to the Stansted 2026 Calendar; page 11 has a colourful article which explains how you can make this happen. Looking through the magazine this month, I am struck by the fact that barely a page goes by without a mention of items which are nature-related in some way: 100 Parishes looks at local fauna on page 19; there are several floral articles and glorious pictures; a book is featured on page 17 called *Nature Within* and Sustainable Stansted on page 11 is looking at local biodiversity. Special congratulations to Bentfield Primary for their Stansted in Bloom accolades and to their wonderful Deputy Head for his charity trek in the mountains of Wales, see page 6. May the festival of lights light up your life and dispel all darkness. Happy Diwali!

Ed



### FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

The Fun Place continues to be a popular meeting place and is open every **Friday including school holidays** from 9.15am-11.30am, in the Free Church Hall, which is warm and comfortable. Now cooler weather is returning, why not come along for a couple of hours and help save on home energy costs? Parents and carers, children and all age visitors are welcome to drop in. The children have plenty of space to run around and play with the toys. Everyone enjoys the Sing-Along at around 10.30am. *All Aboard the Train* was a popular activity recently.



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](mailto:funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



### UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The speaker at our August meeting was the very enthusiastic Lynda Dale, no stranger to the pages of The Link. She explained that during lockdown she started to research and be fascinated by her graveyard neighbours. Her fascination had a practical purpose too, as she began clearing headstones which time and nature had overwhelmed; she managed to clear over 50 graves. Since then she and a group of dedicated volunteers and local scouts have cleared pathways and undergrowth, making it much safer and more pleasant for those visiting the churchyard.

Lynda has taken a large number of photos of the headstones and she showed us a few of them and explained some of the history behind the names. Two of those she mentioned were Albert Alabaster, a local police officer in the 1930s and Walter Leslie Payne, a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy who served on the Queen Elizabeth and HMS Valiant. Others were John Wilkins, groundsman for the Fuller Maitland family of Stansted Hall and Sir Thomas Jackson, the founder of HSBC Bank whose memorial is in the churchyard; his statue is in Statue Square in Hong Kong. Lynda hopes to organise a guided tour of the churchyard; I, for one, would certainly be interested. Her fascinating talk ended with a lively question and answer session, and our usual raffle and refreshments brought another entertaining afternoon to a close.



Our next meeting is on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall when the speaker will be Brian Carline who will be talking about gardening. Why not come along and hear what he has to say? You would be most welcome.

Andrea Fitt  
Tel: 815922

## STANSTED EVENING WI



At our August meeting we welcomed Lucy Allen for a return visit. She showed us a film compilation of her stunts filling in for well-known stars which included some James Bond roles as well as Harry Potter films. Her early enthusiasm was inspired by the gymnast Olga Korbut and gymnastics. She gave us a very lively and entertaining evening.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when we shall be celebrating our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our speaker will be Zoe Jasco. Her subject is *The Women's Voluntary Service WWII*, and the competition is a favourite teapot. Apologies for giving the wrong competition details last month; senior moment!

Linda Gurr  
Tel: 07743 549241



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET  
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

[www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.stanstedhistorysociety.org.uk)

Our new season started on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September and the first meeting was very well attended. The new Chairman, Roger Barrett, introduced our speaker, Philip Hays, who gave a talk with slides on the once great but sadly no more, Hallingbury Place, initially home to the Morley family. They owned the estate from approximately 1300 until 1591 when it was sold to Jacob Houblon. The Morley family came from Norfolk, and were very prominent during the Tudor period and involved in the political events during the reigns of both Henry VII and Henry VIII. It is reported that Queen Elizabeth I stayed at the house on her journey to Tilbury where she gave her most famous speech at the time of the Spanish Armada.

The house was purchased and re-built by Jacob Houblon, who was part of the Archer-Houblon family. Jacob is credited with playing a significant role in the formation of the Bank of England. The estate had wonderful gardens extending some 3000 acres, encompassing farms, cottages and Hatfield Forest. The famous Ladywell Lake there was designed by Capability Brown. Much of the Houblon fortune came from the slave trade but they also had an interest in shipping. During WWI King George V reviewed some 30,000 troops there. However, by the 1920s the enormous cost of keeping an estate of this size was untenable and the contents of the house, cottages and farms were all sold off and sadly the structure was demolished in 1924. Hatfield Forest was given to the National Trust. Roger thanked Philip for a fascinating talk. The next meeting is on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** at 7.30pm in TouchPoint. The speaker will be Mike Howgate on *The Da Vinci Code*. Visitors are always welcome; entry £3. We look forward to seeing you.

Edward Taub  
Email: [taub8jr@icloud.com](mailto:taub8jr@icloud.com)

## DIWALI

Diwali, also known as Deepavali and the Festival of Lights, marks the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. It is celebrated by people across the world. The origins of Diwali date back to ancient India and the festival has evolved over the years with modern cultural influences. It falls annually in October or November and the five-day festivities are celebrated with great enthusiasm globally by millions of Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. Diwali is a time for new beginnings and for families to come together to celebrate with food, fun and festivities, including colourful decorations, brightly lit *diyas* (small oil lamps), candles and colourful *rangolis* (patterns on the floor). The joy of Diwali is not complete without indulging in Indian delicacies such as *samosas*, *pakoras* and *barfis*. It is an introspective celebration which promotes light and love rather than vibrancy. It is time to appreciate the good things in life.



The festival is known for its extravagant firework displays and its significance in cleaning and decorating homes. As modern society becomes increasingly aware of environmental sustainability, people have been encouraged to celebrate Diwali in an eco-friendly way by avoiding fireworks which lead to pollution. Colour fountains are a great way to celebrate in style, and they are kinder to the environment than fireworks. Children play a significant role in the celebrations, with schools and communities organising activities such as lantern-making competitions, cultural programmes and quizzes, to promote a sense of understanding and joy around the festival. Happy Diwali and may its spirit fill your heart with love and positivity.

Rita and Raj Sraan





## IN MEMORIAM

### JOHN HOLLIS

18<sup>th</sup> July 1931 to 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025



John was born in Enfield and his father was a Barclays Bank manager. John spent much of his early life with his grandparents who owned and ran the Swan Public House in Rayne. He earned money pea-picking with German prisoners-of-war and he worked much harder than they did! He loved it when the Americans appeared on the scene as they were incredibly generous with gifts to all the local people.

John went to Daiglen School, followed by Bancroft's School in Woodford. He left Bancroft's reluctantly aged 16 as he wanted to stay on mainly to play rugby! He got a job for 18 months working for Lloyds of London at Hogg Robinson's, and then joined up for National Service at Colchester. He was selected to become an officer and was lucky enough to go to Eaton Hall in Cheshire. He became a second lieutenant in the Essex Regiment and was seconded to the Gold Coast, serving for two years in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Gold Coast Regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force. After National Service he joined the Territorial Army and became a captain. John returned to the city for the rest of his career and became head of General Re-Insurance, an American company. He travelled very widely which he loved, but always kept in close touch with his friends from school and National Service, some of whom attended his funeral on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Janet (Jan) and John married at St John's Church, Buckhurst Hill in June 1960. They moved to Little Fosters on Cambridge Road, where Jan still lives. John walked to Stansted station every day to commute to London, which he really enjoyed. They had three sons, Christopher (Chris), Andrew (Andy) and Timothy, who are married to Sarah, Neil and Becki; their grandchildren are Ruby, Joe, Matt and Poppy. John adored them all and always appreciated their huge support. He always loved Stansted and was fully involved in village life; he was a Parish Councillor, and treasurer for music@stansted, taking over from Jeremy Wagener, another great friend. Despite never embracing technology, his accounts were always meticulous. He was a member of the Local History Society, a trustee of the Sports Association and the Almshouses and a steward at the Windmill.

At the Bell and Feathers John met Peter Brown who invited him to play cricket at Manuden, which he loved. He also played squash and tennis, and rugby for the Old Bancroftians until he was 40, which unfortunately led to severe arthritis. Over the last 40 years John had five hip replacements, the first one in 1990 at Herts and Essex Hospital's York Ward, which closed that same year. On retirement John joined the Bowls Club. He loved playing and was very involved with every aspect of the social side. He always said it was the friendliest club he had ever known. They honoured him by making him president and refused to accept his resignation even when he could no longer visit the club.

John's other great love was fishing. He fished at Arncliffe, on the Spey in Scotland, on the Test in Hampshire and in Norway, again making many lifelong friends; but wading up to the chest in cold water is not good for arthritis! He also belonged to the Bishop's Stortford Angling Club and would fish on the Stort in Gipsy Lane at the crack of dawn before he came home to get ready to catch the train to London. On one occasion he challenged someone whom he thought was a trespasser on this private land. With his usual humour Charles Humphreys very politely told John that he actually owned the land. It did nothing to spoil their friendship! On retirement, 11 local friends formed the Mountfitchet Investment Club which had monthly meetings with lunch at The Cock. John served as chairman until it eventually closed.

Regrettably he had a most unfortunate experience in hospital during Covid which rendered him totally bedridden, so he spent the last years of his life in nursing homes, but he never complained. The great highlights of this time were the weekly visits from Julie, a wonderful physiotherapist, visits from David Morson and best of all, the faithful monthly visits of Colin Fairweather to give John Holy Communion and to share many happy afternoons. John had a very deep life-long faith which we are sure sustained him. He was a sidesman at St John's and also worshipped at St Mary's, Farnham and Birchanger. He was so lucky that he retained a sharp brain until he died which made it so much better for us all.

John had two bowel cancer operations and a knee replacement, and was booked to have the other knee replaced but died before it was done. He recovered from skin cancer. To say he was a stoic would be an understatement; he was a quiet, modest man. He died on Easter Sunday aged nearly 94 and had been married for almost 65 years. We had all visited him, and when Andy said goodbye, John smiled and said *Lights Out* and died a few hours later. He had a wonderful, joyous funeral at St Mary's, conducted so very well by Colin, with St John's choir and Anne Brooks on the organ. As usual, Steve and Lynda Dale quietly and efficiently organised everything at the church. Sarah made the wonderful flower arrangements for the church and St Theresa's Parish Centre where the wake was held. The church was packed with John's family and friends. He is buried in the cemetery beside five other family members.

We hope our words convey John's great life-long love of Stansted and demonstrate that anybody who contributes to village life is hugely rewarded in every way.

Janet, Christopher, Andrew and Timothy



## Singers Concert

**3 pm Sat 4th Oct  
St John's Church**

### Such a Perfect Day

*A variety of songs to relax and enjoy*

Adults £10, Children £5  
(includes light refreshments)  
from 815409 or on the door



## Friends of St Mary's Church

### Brentwood Mac

### Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band

**7.30 pm Sat 4th Oct**

*'It was brilliant - so much fun!'*

Tickets £22 on the door

For more information call 07716 099474



## WELLBEING FESTIVAL

**2 - 5 pm Sun 5th Oct**

St John's Church and Hall

**Visit over 30 clubs and groups  
to see what help they can offer**

**Please join us, all welcome**

**Light refreshments**

## WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

2 Thu	Local History Society
4 Sat	U3A Singers' Concert
	Brentwood Mac
5 Sun	Windmill Open
	Wellbeing Festival
	Saffron Symphony
7 Tue	Stansted is Well Read
9 Thu	<b>Link copy due in today</b>
	Coffee with Cops
	W I
10 Fri	Stan Hall Cricket Club Quiz
11 Sat	Shoe Box Collection
	Music@stansted
12 & 26 Sun	Skips
14 Tue	The Arts Society BS
	RSPB
15 Wed	Ugley W I
16 Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting
18 Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market
	Art and Craft Market
19 Sun	Halloween Open Day
	Village Harvest Supper
25 Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market

Touchpoint 7.30 pm
St John's Church 3 pm
St Mary's Church 7.30 pm
1.30 - 5.30 pm
St John's Church 2 - 5 pm
Saffron Hall 3 pm
Dog and Duck 8 pm
<b>before noon</b>
St Mary's Church 11 am - 12.30 pm
Touchpoint 7.30 pm
Elsenham Village Hall 7.30 pm
Free Church Foyer 10 am - noon
St John's Church 7 pm
Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
Southmill Arts 10.40 am
Bishop's Park Comm Cntr 7.30 pm
Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
Thaxted Church 10 am - 4 pm
Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
St Theresa's Parish Centre 6 pm
Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm



## Children's Concert

**3 pm Sun 5th Oct**

Saffron Hall, Saffron Walden

### Fire and Ice

**James Mayhew and Toto Martinez  
paint while the orchestra plays**

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

## T4U Christmas Shoeboxes Shoe Box Items Collection Morning

**10 am - noon Sat 11th Oct**

Free Church Foyer

**or bring to The Place on the Hill**

**in the Free Church Foyer any**

**Wednesday in October 10 am - noon**

See list of suitable items on page 13

For more information call 813579  
814865 or 812109



## Village Harvest Supper & Entertainment

*Fish/Chicken/Veggie/Sausage & Chips*

**6 pm Sun 19th Oct**

**St Theresa's Parish Centre**

Tickets: Adults £12 children £10  
From 814059, 812457 or 814865

**Bring your own drink & glass**

**Tickets must be bought in advance**

## T4U SHOE BOX QUIZ

**7 for 7.30 pm Sat 1st Nov**

St Theresa's Parish Centre

**Raising money for the  
transportation of the shoe boxes**

Tickets £7 from Catherine 813579  
Helen 814865, Eileen 812109 or  
Verity 07854 930829

**Bring your own food, drink & glass**



**7 pm Sat 11th Oct**

St John's Church

**Pelleas Ensemble**

*Music by Dowland, Purcell  
and Prokofiev plus  
Traditional Irish Melodies*

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



## OPEN DAY

**11 am - 5 pm Sun 19th Oct**

*Last opening for this year*

### Halloween Fun

Spooky Trail and Games

Tickets £7 on the gate or £6 in  
advance from www.trybooking.com  
Under 16s Free Dogs Welcome

**Refreshments and Produce**



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

**10 am - noon**

**Sat 18th Oct**

Ugley Village Hall

*Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs*

*Fish ~ Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb*

*Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam*

*Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants*

*Knitting and Needlework*

**Refreshments and Free Parking**

**For info and future dates tel 814052**



## Green Waste Skip Dates

**Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm**

**12th & 26th Oct**

**9th & 23rd Nov**

**Lower Street Car Park**



## STANSTED u3a SINGERS

The Singers present *Such a Perfect Day* on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October** at 3.00pm in St John's Church. Tickets: adults £10, children £5, to include a glass of wine or soft drink and light refreshments, available from 815409 or on the door. Everyone welcome, do join us.

Jenny Jordan



[www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.bentfieldprimaryschool.co.uk)

Our new academic year has started well; the pupils have begun the term with great energy and enthusiasm, and it has been a pleasure to catch up with them about their adventures over the summer holidays and see such a positive, hardworking approach across the school. In particular, it is fantastic to see the smiles on the faces of our new reception pupils. They too are settling in brilliantly despite it being a slightly overwhelming experience. It is not long before parents of reception pupils for September 2026 start to think about preliminary visits before the application process begins. We will be holding open days for prospective pupils and parents to visit the school to have a pupil-led tour and the opportunity to ask any questions. There will be five open days this term: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Information on how to book appointments, as well as further information about our school, can be found on our website.



In other news, we already have several congratulations. Firstly, to our school allotment team for winning the Stansted in Bloom *Best Young People's Project (under 12 years)*, see also page 9. This is a tremendous achievement and testament to everyone who has supported this amazing venture. Secondly, to our Deputy Headteacher, Brian Winstanley, who has raised over £2,200 for Great Ormond Street Hospital by spending two weeks over the summer holidays walking the fifty highest peaks in Wales (see photo). Finally, a huge well done to Isaac, one of our Year 6 pupils, who, during the summer holidays, cycled 55km (34 miles) over three days in three different locations to raise more than £1,700 for Viva, a global children's charity. What a fabulous start to the year!

David Rogers  
Headteacher  
Tel: 813626

## BRAIN TRAINING

### Executive function and long-term pain

So you have had the same pain in the knee or shoulder, or the same technical fault for a long time now. You have seen experts to help, and whilst the problem has improved somewhat, it is still there, which is so frustrating. Help is at hand in your own brain! How cool is that. Over time, regular movement becomes habitualised, and if a movement always causes pain, frustration or worry, the brain pays a great deal of attention to it: it is coming, brace yourself; and this builds what is called a neuro signature, meaning all parts of your being are now involved, physical, emotional, autonomic in preparation for the expected, unpleasant outcome.



To help undo this mess, we can use our executive function, the parts of the frontal lobe that inhibit unwanted feelings and actions. To engage it, sit down, maybe shut your eyes, and just imagine doing the movement. Do not move. Pay huge attention to what else is going on in your body as the critical moment approaches. Gripping is a common reaction, especially the breath, but also teeth or jaw, inner thighs, buttocks, another limb, the knees; the list is individual and usually more than one thing. Now let all that unnecessary nonsense go and imagine doing the movement again, but without the accompanying tensions. This will probably take a few goes. Once you have mastered that, have a go at doing the movement again, but now inhibiting those unhelpful extras. Sometimes this can be miraculous. It is certainly useful in reducing unnecessary pain, improving that difficult note for a musician, or the frustrating back-hand for a tennis player.

Clare Harding  
Z-Health Master Practitioner  
Tel: 07802 872919

### DON'T FORGET!

The clocks go back  
at 2.00am on  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October





## STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

<https://stansted.u3asite.uk>

### Stansted assets

Have you noticed the white Touchpoint vans in Stansted? Paul Chambers, founder of Touchpoint, has galvanised an energetic band of local volunteers to supply many different services to Stansted. At the u3a monthly meeting, he reminded, thanked and impressed everyone with the project's truly dynamic work. Touchpoint was initiated by Paul after he identified different needs in our community, alongside a wealth of untapped expertise and willingness to help. With astute and creative planning, Touchpoint now has 190 active volunteers, nine Food Share points across the neighbourhood, a community radio station, kids' teatimes, Sunday afternoon movies, bereavement counselling and a memory café. It counters isolation and other serious issues through compassion. Unsurprisingly, the u3a audience was highly attentive, some departing the meeting intending to join Touchpoint, all thankful such altruism is at work locally.

The Saturday Seminar is on **4<sup>th</sup> October** at 9.30am in St Theresa's Parish Centre. It has a very intriguing topic: *Henry I - England's most formidable King*, which will be delivered by Dr Hugh Doherty, lecturer in Medieval History at the University of East Anglia. The next monthly meeting is on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October** 1.30pm for 2.00pm at the same venue. The topic will be *Make do and mend* given by Amanda Sutherland; her experience of costume design and working in theatre and TV promises to inspire creativity in the re-use of out-of-date clothes clogging up the wardrobe. There are also three new groups being added to the menu: Pilates, Musical Appreciation and Understanding IT.

Remember you can find out about all the talks, classes and activities happening by visiting our website or you can call us on 07874 385541; please leave a message including your name and phone number if nobody is available to take your call.

Julia Cook



## HUW JOHNSON CLUB

At the Club's latest evening we all enjoyed a very tasty fish and chips supper followed by a quickfire game of bingo. We also held a competition to choose a new logo for the Club as our old one had been in use since the Club was founded in 1974 and was due for an upgrade. Next up we have a visit from the Bishop's Stortford Ukulele Society which we are all looking forward to.

The Huw Johnson Club is a social club for adults with a learning disability. Our activities include bingo, crafts, discos, visits from local music groups as well as meals out and bowling trips. If you are interested in joining as a member or a helper, please do get in touch.

Ellen Brooks  
Tel: 07800 896516  
Email: [ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.musicatstansted.co.uk](http://www.musicatstansted.co.uk)

A reminder of our concert on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.00pm in St John's Church when the Pelleas Ensemble, comprising harp, flute and viola will be playing music by Dowland, Purcell and Prokofiev as well as traditional Irish melodies and a new piece written specially for the group. Tickets: £18 adults, £15 over 65s and students, under-21s free, are available on the door.

Richard Allaway

Tel: 814118

Email: [contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk](mailto:contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk)



## RSPB

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


Our month starts on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October** at 10.00am, when we plan to visit Wandlebury Country Park at Gog Magog Hills, Cambridge CB22 3AE. Located on top of the hills, this 110 acre park is designated a County Wildlife Site and is important for its chalk meadows and mature woodland. This location was featured in *Bird Watching* magazine and offers a good variety of habitats and seasonal migrant species in addition to all-year residents.

A popular feature of our programme are the short, sociable, local bird walks and our next one is on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**. We are meeting at The Chequers Inn, Wareside SG12 7QY at 10.00am. Please note that there is limited parking there but hopefully an arrangement can be made with the pub to use their car park. Please contact me to confirm this.



Our monthly meeting is on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA, and sees the return of Steve Magennis for a third visit. He is an excellent speaker who combines an incredible knowledge with stunning images delivered in a way that shows his passion and love of his subject. Having previously entertained us with his Bird Watchers Year presentations his focus now turns to *Striking, impressive and spectacular sea birds*. For further details, please see our website.

Peter Allen  
Tel: 07876 295456  
Email: [peter2349@sky.com](mailto:peter2349@sky.com)



# Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy

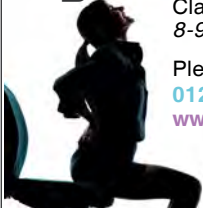

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## RECYCLING

### Recycle your small electrical appliances

Did you know that the council will collect old electrical appliances such as irons, toasters, radios, hairdryers, cameras, electric toothbrushes etc free of charge from most doorsteps in Stansted? Just put any items in a separate bag and place on top of your bin, either black or green, on Fridays. See separate article below for further details.

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

A reminder that we no longer accept blister packs or spectacles for recycling; please take spectacles to *Specsavers* in Bishop's Stortford, who have a box for them just behind the till. They do not want the cases. 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](mailto:sales@cambridge-computer-recycling.co.uk) or Townstech in Harlow tel 898240 [www.townstech.co.uk](http://www.townstech.co.uk). If you have Dell equipment, including monitors, you can recycle directly with them; go to [www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com) and search for recycling.



Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059

Email: [recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

## RECYCLING SMALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS

I suspect there will be some confusion over Uttlesford District Council (UDC)'s newly introduced service for the doorstep collection of unwanted small electrical items. The service is being provided in Stansted every week where UDC uses its larger bin collection vehicles. However, in some parts of Stansted, collections of waste and recycling materials are carried out by a smaller, *hard-to-reach area* van that does not yet have enough space for storing them. Currently these vehicles do not have cages fitted to store electrical items as part of the doorstep recycling. I am informed that options are being investigated over the next couple of months to see what solutions can be found for the smaller vehicles. The hard-to-reach areas have narrower roads. Mine, *Recreation Ground*, is one of them. Others are: *Water Lane, Brook Road, Cannons Court, Gall End Lane, Mill Hill/Fields/Side, Rochford Close, Station Road, Sunnyside, Woodfields/Terrace/Close/Mews, the Blythwood Gardens loop and a couple of properties at Poplar Hall*.

Visit UDC's website [www.uttlesford.gov.uk/electricals](http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/electricals) for full details. There is also information on drop off points as well as a

link to a *recycling locator*. If you put a Stansted post-code in the search box, a number of retailer collection points is also shown as available drop-off points. I plan to report back as soon as possible.

Cllr Alan Dean  
Tel: 813579



## STANSTED IN BLOOM

The presentation of the 2025 Anglia in Bloom awards took place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Communities, schools, councils, and individuals from Bedfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and Norfolk travelled to the Burgess Hall in St Ives to celebrate the very best in community gardening, horticultural excellence and environmental care across the East of England. In the main awards section Stansted was awarded a Silver Gilt which mirrored last year's award and is just one level below the top grade of Gold. The judges report praised the Touchpoint gardens and Human Roots as being a *credit for sustainable growing and finding innovative ways to combat different problems*. They commented that the Aubrey Buxton nature reserve was a well-managed area which encouraged wildlife and nature at its best. They said that it was good to see *lots of different community groups working towards a common goal and lovely to see the next generation involved*.



The Food Share programme, community involvement and engagement with young people were identified as areas of particular achievement. In the virtual categories, which are judged from photographs and a 100-word submission, our Social Club was given a gold award and declared as a very worthy winner in the public house category. The judges report said that the entry *gives instant visual impact and is very inviting. The colour combinations are superb*. Last but certainly not least we were delighted that Bentfield School was judged to be the Best Young People's Project, Under 12. Unfortunately, the autumn term had started at school so they could not be there to receive their award in person, but we were able to hand over their certificate and trophy at their allotment at Walpole Meadow on the following day.

Trevor Lloyd  
Tel: 07739 428352  
Email: [stanstedinbloom@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedinbloom@gmail.com)





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## STANSTED 2026 CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION

### We love Stansted

Following the huge success of local photographer Dale Crowson's 2025 Calendar, the 2026 version will not only feature and celebrate the village but also raise funds for projects such as TouchPoint and Stansted in Bloom. To make it even better, your photo could appear alongside Dale's stunning images! The subject is *We love Stansted* and the judges are especially looking for photos of Gardens in Bloom, the Local Environment and Wildlife. Closing date is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October**.

### Rules for entry

- Two age categories: 16 and under and over 16
- Maximum two images per entrant
- Email photos as jpeg attachments to [stanstedinbloom@gmail.com](mailto:stanstedinbloom@gmail.com)
- Include your name and contact number
- For entrants aged 16 and under, please also include the name of your school or college
- Please note that if you send in a photo for consideration, you are giving us permission to use the image within the 2026 calendar and for any associated promotion.

Dale Crowson  
Resident Photographer  
Lifelong Local and Calendar Judge



Dale has lived in Stansted all his life, with his family calling the village home for over 70 years. Following in the footsteps of his grandad, Dale works at the airport, but his true passion lies behind the lens. A keen photographer since childhood, Dale won his first photography competition at 18 and has not looked back since. Most recently, he took home first prize in the 2025

*Alhama de Granada Carnival Photography Contest* in Spain with the vibrant image featured below.



Dale's love for Stansted shines through in every photo he takes, and he is proud to be one of the judges for this year's village calendar competition. *I feel fortunate to live in such a lovely village, which gives me so many opportunities to capture nice photos, says Dale. The response I get when I share them on Facebook is always encouraging. I am really happy to be involved in this year's calendar, especially as it supports great local projects. I hope everyone will take a moment to scroll through their phones or head out and explore the village with fresh eyes and share their favourite shots with us.*

Julie Dawson-Wills



## SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

### Stansted biodiversity study findings launched

The findings of the study of Stansted's natural resources were launched at our Community Nature Fair on 6<sup>th</sup> September. The release of these findings coincides with the publication of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy, where land within and around Stansted has been identified as a strategic location for the creation and restoration of woodland and grassland. The study was led by a team of professional ecologists from MKA Ecology and much of the fieldwork was done by a small local group of trained Sustainable Stansted volunteers. The research found that key areas for biodiversity in the area are:

- The ancient woodlands in the north-east of the parish including Alsa Wood, Durrell's Wood and Aubrey Buxton
- The River Stort and Stansted brook and the surrounding areas
- Stansted Park with its range of veteran trees.

The report and accompanying residents' guide sets out a wide range of actions we can take, including:

- Protecting, enhancing and expanding areas of woodland and grassland
- Taking action within our woodland areas to protect notable plants such as English bluebells
- Creation of bee-lawns and more wildflower-rich grassland
- Protecting and developing ponds to support species such as the greater-crested newt
- Improving hedgerow condition and areas of dense thorny scrub to protect and enhance populations of birds such as dunnocks, bullfinches, song thrushes and linnets
- Providing bird boxes to help to halt the national decline in swift population
- Taking action to promote biodiversity in our own gardens and allotments by providing water, lots of flower forage, sunny and shady areas, bare ground and areas of deadwood.

### What will you do?

For your copy of the guide on actions you can take please see: <https://bit.ly/StanstedResidentsGuide>.

Fiona Neathey  
Email: [fionaneathey@icloud.com](mailto:fionaneathey@icloud.com)

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Chris **01279 817111** [info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk](mailto:info@mvcc.manuden.org.uk)



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## Ugley Village Hall

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Once again we will be packing shoe boxes to be sent by Teams4u to disadvantaged children in Eastern Europe. We are very pleased to be joined by Verity Beynon this year. If you would like to contribute, please bring items along on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October** 10.00am-noon, or on any Wednesday morning at the same times, to the Stansted Free Church. Or let us know you have donations and we will collect from you. The list of suitable items includes the following:

- Toiletries – toothbrushes and paste, soap, face flannels or sponges
- Hairbrush, comb, girls' hairbands and clips
- Stationery items – paper, note pads, exercise books, pens, pencils, crayons, ruler, geometry set, craft pack
- Small games, puzzles, bubbles, small musical instruments, toy vehicles, fidget toys
- Items of clothing – gloves, hats, scarves
- Small bags, new socks and underwear
- Soft toys (sadly not hand knitted) and knitted hand puppets
- Small items of jewellery
- Sweets and chocolates, well within their sell by date

Some ideas for items for older boys: finger skateboards, small plastic characters, shades, skipping rope, playing cards, marbles, key ring, comb, wallet, whistle, yo-yo, calculator, fidget spinner, baseball cap, hair gel, shampoo, spray deodorant. We never seem to have enough of these. Look out for leaflets around the village, where you can find all the information, or visit the Teams4u website (teams4you.com).

We are packing boxes on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November** 2.00pm-5.00pm at St. Theresa's Parish Centre. All are welcome to join us. There is ample parking. The shipping cost is £3.50 per box, so we would welcome cash donations. If you are making up a complete box, labels can be downloaded from the website, or are on the leaflets. Please include a Christmas card and perhaps a photo of yourself. Let us have the completed boxes by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November so that we can take them to the distribution point at Loughton.

Helen Baker Tel: 814865  
Eileen Quinn Tel: 812109  
Catherine Dean Tel: 813579  
Verity Beynon 07854 930829

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX QUIZ

Our quiz in aid of transport costs for the shoe boxes is on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November** 7.00pm for 7.30pm in St. Theresa's Parish Centre. Please bring your own food, drink and glass. Tickets: £7, which is the cost of shipping two boxes, are available from one of us. See you there!



Catherine Tel: 813579 Helen Tel: 814865  
Eileen Tel: 812109 Verity Tel: 07854 930829

### Summer highlights

As the new academic year begins, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate what has been happening at Grove Cottage over the summer. From exciting activities and Club adventures to major milestones in our rebuild, it has been full of fun and community spirit.

### Rebuild milestone reached

A huge thank you to our supporters for helping us reach an incredible milestone: 95% of our rebuild fundraising target! We will soon be welcoming our members into their brand new space. This achievement has only been possible thanks to your generosity and support.

### Grove grows

Our gardening club has nine regular members, with room for more. The club nurtures confidence, healthy eating and wellbeing, proving that it is not just about growing plants but growing people too.



### Fundraising and awareness this summer

We have had a fabulous summer fundraising and raising awareness of Grove Cottage with the help of our wonderful corporate supporters, volunteers, and community. As *Charity of the Year* at Jackson Square, we spent four days there selling the ever-popular Palm Pals collectibles and gifts. Our talented member, Rob Newman, created and sold his own artwork with the help of his dad, Roger, raising funds through his beautiful cards, badges and prints. DOC Cleaning hosted a charity golf day at Manor of Groves, raising almost £5,000, while Down Hall supported our musical afternoon tea, raising £1,000. We were also out on Sworders Field, meeting supporters, selling our delicious homemade cakes, and enjoying live music together.

From *Wearing Mauve for Grove* to shining a spotlight on learning disabilities, this summer has been a wonderful celebration of generosity and togetherness. With many more fundraising plans ahead, we would love you to get involved. If you would like to support us in the community, or have a fundraising idea of your own, please call 651908 or email: fundraising@mencapgrovecottage.org.

Sarah Smith  
Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

For a significant birthday recently, I received a card with the picture of a glorified elephant. The wording on the card was *Happy Birthday ... Age is irrelephant!* This got me thinking about the relevance of correct spelling, followed by considering the importance also of punctuation. With technology providing us with so many ways of being in touch with each other at speed, spelling and punctuation, by default, seem to lose importance. The well-known poem below, *The Dash* by Linda Ellis, comes as a reminder that this is not always the case.

There was a man who stood to speak  
At the funeral of a friend.  
He referred to the dates on her service sheet  
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth,  
And spoke the following date with tears,  
But he said what mattered most of all  
Was the DASH between the years.

For that DASH represents all the time  
That she spent above the earth;  
And now only those who loved her  
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own,  
The cars, the house, the cash;  
What matters is how we live and love  
And how we spend our dash.

If we could just slow down enough  
To consider what's true and real,  
And always try to understand  
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger  
And show appreciation more,  
And LOVE the people in our lives  
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect  
And more often wear a smile  
Remembering that this special DASH  
Might only last a while ...

So when your eulogy's being read  
With your life's actions to rehash,  
Would you be proud of the things they say  
About how you spent your DASH?

Sue Moloney  
Stansted Quakers



### STANSTED QUAKERS

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill  
Stansted CM24 8AE  
[www.stansted.quakermeeting.org](http://www.stansted.quakermeeting.org)

**Contact** Sue Moloney Tel: 07759 532115  
Email: [suemol@uwclub.net](mailto:suemol@uwclub.net)

**Lettings** Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207  
Email: [yvonne-wood@outlook.com](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.



### ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

High Lane, Stansted CM24 8LQ  
[www.sttheresasstansted.org](http://www.sttheresasstansted.org)

**Parish Priest** Fr Clement Orango  
Tel: 814349  
Email: [frclementorango@brcdt.org](mailto:frclementorango@brcdt.org)

**Parish Administrator** Tel: 816889  
Email: [stansted@brcdt.org](mailto:stansted@brcdt.org)

**Masses:**  
**Saturday** 5.15pm-5.45pm Confessions  
6.00pm Mass  
**Sunday** 8.30am Mass  
10.00am Mass  
**Wednesday** 12.30pm Mass

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

**Baptisms:** By appointment







## STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC

Chapel Hill

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



**All enquiries** The Church Office, St John's Hall,  
**Including Church** St John's Road, Stansted CM24 8JP  
**Hall bookings** Tel: 815243 (with answerphone)  
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday,  
Friday 10.00am- noon  
Email: [stansted.church.office@gmail.com](mailto:stansted.church.office@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.thefivechurches.org.uk](http://www.thefivechurches.org.uk)

**Priest in Charge** Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather Tel: 816721  
Email: [revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com](mailto:revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com)

**Associate Priest** Rev'd Helen Flack Tel: 01371 876145  
Email: [revhelenstn@gmail.com](mailto:revhelenstn@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Assistant** Kathryn West Tel: 816293  
Mobile: 07880 602717  
Email: [kewest@btinternet.com](mailto:kewest@btinternet.com)

**Director of Music:** Anne Brooks  
Email: [anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anne.brooks22@yahoo.co.uk)

**Services** Together on Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) 9.30am  
Holy Communion (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Craft Stall at the Windmill Fête

The picture below shows Kirsty, winner of the St John's Church Craft Stall raffle, being presented with an Undersea Play Set at the Windmill Fête by the Rev'd Colin.



With the sales on the stall and the raffle we raised £315 for the church which we were very pleased with.

Ann Conroy and June Winter

### FROM ST JOHN'S REGISTERS

#### Baptism

17<sup>th</sup> August

Darcie Phillips

There were no weddings or funerals in August.

**Minister** Rev'd Gill Hulme  
Tel: 504157  
Email: [gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk](mailto:gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk)

**Secretary** Catherine Dean  
Tel: 813579  
Email: [catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

**Lettings** Marion and Mike Dyer  
Tel: 814059  
Email: [lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

### Preachers for October

5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Heather Gale  
12<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions  
19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Julie Finbow - Harvest  
26<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Rev'd Charles Martin - Communion



## FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

I was extremely thankful for the rain to water the garden and the churchyard. Probably not sufficient to make much difference, but welcome all the same. Brentwood Mac is playing on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in St Mary's. I do hope that you can join us. Tickets: £22.00 on the door. There is a bar available.

I am now planning for a special service in church to mark the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Mary's ceasing to be used for regular worship. It will be a short service of thanks to all of you for your support and love over this time, a chance to meet up with old friends and to remember times gone by. Were you married or baptised here? Do your loved ones rest here? Were you in the choir or a bell ringer? Whatever your connection might be to this magnificent building, you are all welcome. Please help me to fill the seats. This is an open invitation to join us in the church on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November** at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments too, thanks to my team of volunteers.



Lynda Dale  
Tel: 07716 099474

## STANSTED HELPLINE



### Appeal for help

Most of you will know that Helpline provides an invaluable service to Stansted residents who lack other sources of help and need transport to appointments, shopping and collecting prescriptions, for example. We have a small group of wonderful, dedicated volunteers who respond to requests as often as they are able. Our numbers however are low and we are in urgent need of more volunteers to join us in order to continue the service. If you have any free time during the day and would like to help, then please call 07704 553727 or email me for more details. Our lines are open weekdays 9.00am-4.00pm. We would really love to hear from you. Thank you.

Anne Wilkinson, Chair  
Email: [annew2206@gmail.com](mailto:annew2206@gmail.com)



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## STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *The Match* by Harlan Coben. In this sequel to *The Boy From The Woods*, Wilde follows a lead to uncovering his past, only to end up closer to a ruthless killer. 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 MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

[www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk](http://www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk)

We were very lucky with the weather for the fête again because the following day it rained. About 10 years ago we had two consecutive fêtes which suffered from terrible weather. On the first of those occasions the event was reduced to a huddle of tents around the base of the mill and on the second we decanted the whole event into St John's Hall! We could not do that now, of course, because the fête is a much bigger affair with all the extra children's entertainments on the Recreation Ground, so now each year we watch the weather forecasts anxiously!



The finances have not yet been finalised. As I write there is still some money to come in and a bit to go out too, but the outcome is looking like it will be similar to last year with a bottom-line profit of around £3,500. We extend our thanks to everyone who helped with the event, whether by running a stall, helping to set up and pack up afterwards, which is always the worst job, or by donating your time or money. You are too numerous to mention individually. We were sponsored or received donations of prizes from Sovereign Medical, KMD Private Wealth Management, Canfield Carpentry, Intercounty Estate Agents, Tesco Express, Café Yeomans, Brohmon Restaurant and Stansted Golf World. We would like to thank them all for their invaluable support.

Our final opening of the year is on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** 1.30pm-5.30pm; entry: adults £3, children £1, under 5 free.

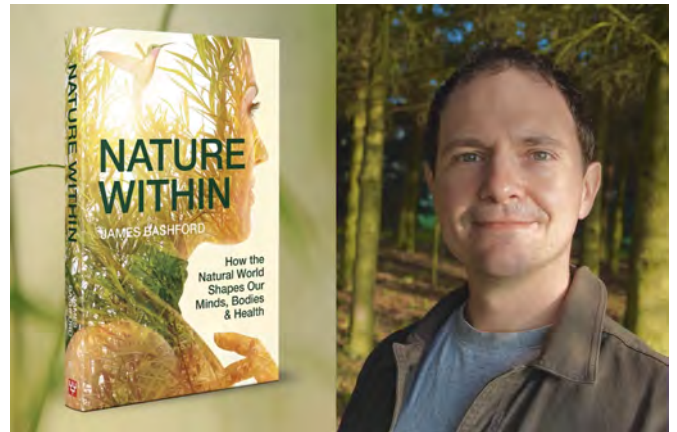
Trevor Lloyd  
Tel: 07739 428352

Email: [info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk](mailto:info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk)

## NATURE WITHIN

### A new book that fosters the nature within us all

*Nature Within* is my debut book which is due to be released in November by Pelagic Publishing. I am a neurology doctor, nature enthusiast and Stansted resident. I believe that reconnecting with nature is the most important public health intervention of our time. To protect human health over the long-term, we first need to prevent the destruction of our environment and the countless species we share it with. My passion for nature grew out of a fascination for moths: their bold colours, their cryptic patterns and their immensely complex life cycles. I was awestruck by the alluring song of the veery bird in a Canadian woodland, which inspired me to think more deeply about the intimate connections between human health and the natural world. *Nature Within* is the result of all this.



I studied medicine at the University of Cambridge before completing neurology training and a PhD at King's College London. I now run a research group which cares for patients suffering from motor neurone disease. This taught me a lot about how to approach some of life's most complex problems. I am also a husband, father of twin daughters and a very makeshift marathoner. There is now no doubt that we are living in a time of ominous change for the environment and ecosystems we rely upon. However, at this book's heart is a relentless optimism that nature has already gifted the necessary tools to conserve the health of earthly life. We just need to reconnect.

*Nature Within* will be published in hardback on 4<sup>th</sup> November and is available for pre-order at <https://pelagicpublishing.com/products/nature-within> (use code NATURE25 for 25% off). I will also be running a book launch at Hart's Books in Saffron Walden on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** 5.30pm-7.00pm. Please join me there to find out more.

James Bashford

*Do you remember the beautiful photo of a fox which was our Link cover in May last year? It was taken by James: a further example of his enthusiasm for nature.*

Ed





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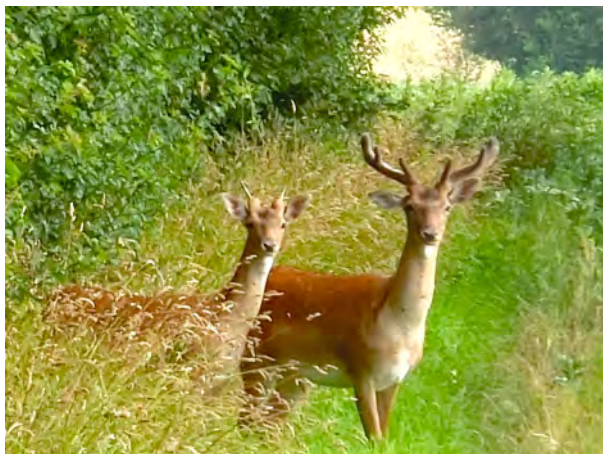


## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

Recently, I was privileged to watch two bats flying around my garden. They were so quick and acrobatic it was difficult to keep them in view. Bats and their roosts are legally protected so must not be disturbed. They are mammals, giving birth to live young. It reminded me of how lucky we are in The Hundred Parishes to have so many wild mammals in our mainly rural area.

There are several kinds of deer locally, mostly fallow, roe or muntjac. Larger herds are usually fallow deer which have palmate antlers, shaped like the palm of a hand. The smaller roe deer may be seen in smaller groups; they have a white rump and no visible tail. muntjac are smaller still and tend to be solitary; they have horns and tusks, downward-pointing canine teeth.



Out enjoying our latest walk, number 188 in the list of walks on our website, my wife and I surprised two hares who disappeared at great speed when they spotted us. They can run up to 45mph over short distances. We regularly see foxes in our garden, usually courtesy of our inexpensive night vision camera. In the spring, we enjoyed watching the young cubs playing. Foxes seem to be a more common sight now, even during daylight, and regularly venture into built up areas. The camera occasionally spots a badger, usually looking for peanuts.

Anyone lucky enough to see hedgehogs in their garden should look after them as their numbers are in decline. They are nocturnal, so at dusk we should put out a shallow bowl of fresh water (not milk as it is bad for their digestion) and perhaps some dog or cat food. They may repay you by eating slugs and insects although our experience has been that they prefer commercial hedgehog food like *Spike's Dinner*. Enjoy them all.



Ken McDonald  
Secretary  
Tel: 813226

Email: [hundredparishes@btinternet.com](mailto:hundredparishes@btinternet.com)

## IN LOVING MEMORY

This service is our benefice's own distinctive way of marking All Souls Day, and commemorates those who have died, either recently or in the past. It is a reflective service, during which you will have the opportunity to light a candle in someone's memory, and have their name read out. This year it will be on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** at 3.00pm in St John's Church. If you would like to submit a name for inclusion, please contact our administrator Alison, preferably well before the service: call 815243 and leave a message or email: [stansted.church.office@googlemail.com](mailto:stansted.church.office@googlemail.com). You can ask for a name to be added on the day if you wish.



Rev'd Colin Fairweather



## THE PLACE ON THE HILL

[www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)

Autumn has certainly come with the shorter, cooler days, but *The Place on the Hill* is always lovely and warm. Come and join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. If you would like to get out and meet people, we offer a safe and friendly environment for adults. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** and everyone is welcome. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is limited parking behind the church. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer  
Tel: 814059

Email: [theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk](mailto:theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk)



## BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk](http://www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk)

### Volunteers needed!

The children are embracing the colourful season of autumn by learning about the reasons behind harvest. They have been learning what it means to be thankful and thinking about how we can help those not as fortunate as ourselves in the surrounding community.

With the start of a new academic year we have been thinking about enrichment opportunities for the children across the school. We are looking for volunteers who have a passion which they would like to share with the children in the form of running a weekly club, either at lunchtime or after school. Although the clubs need to be run voluntarily, we think you will find the experience both enjoyable and rewarding. Previous clubs have included: Mindfulness, Bible Craft, Netball, Coding, Languages and Cookery. A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be required for safeguarding purposes but we can apply for this on your behalf. We would love to hear from you if you can help! Please contact Carolyn Field using the email address below.

Sharon Vessey  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812362

Email: [admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk)

# Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



## Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

*...with a tribute to the much loved and respected Peter Jones, along with news of how to apply for an almshouse on High Lane, Anglia in Bloom results and a thank you to Seann Thompson, organiser of this year's Skatepark Jam*

### Peter Jones — 1944-2025

A TRIBUTE TO PARISH COUNCILLOR & COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Peter Jones — advocate for the community, investment analyst, and much-loved father and friend — passed away peacefully last month after a life dedicated to service and community spirit.

Peter spent over 46 years serving Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council, twice as Chairman and for many years as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Even in his final year, despite ill-health, he remained active on six working groups, a testament to his commitment to the community.

Born in London within the sound of the Bow Bells, Peter won scholarships to Dulwich College and St John's, Oxford, where he developed a passion for politics. Professionally, he became a respected investment analyst, heading research departments in leading City stockbroking firms.

After moving to Stansted in 1973 with his wife, Kaye, Peter played a central role in shaping village life — from helping to establish the Day Centre, Romeera Leisure Centre and Mountfitchet Exchange, representing the Parish Council at various Public Inquiries on Stansted Airport and improvements to the former Youth Centre, to co-founding Sustainable Stansted and guiding the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Peter is survived by his daughter Sarah, his son Andrew, and many friends and colleagues who will remember him for his integrity, intellect, and generosity.



### LEAP almshouses

Deadline for Applications: 31st October 2025



#### Fullers Almshouses

**ALMSHOUSES:** Charity-run homes for people of limited means

**WHERE?** Troy Homes High Lane Development

**AVAILABILITY:** January 2026

**HOW MANY?** 3x two-bedroom flats (two of which are on the first floor)

**PARKING:** On-site with EV charging Point / Space for buggy store with charging points

**STYLING:** Furnished, but white goods needed

**ENERGY SOURCE:** Heat pumps

**OCCUPANCY:** Homes for women\* and men over age of 60 of limited means resident in the Parish of Stansted Mountfitchet (\*priority)

**RENT:** A weekly maintenance contribution to be set at a level where a resident would qualify for housing benefit

Three new almshouses on High Lane are due to be ready for occupancy in January 2026.

Residents who wish to apply are asked to submit their applications to the Legacy East Almshouse Partnership (LEAP) by the end of October.

The almshouses are being built by Troy Homes, with £800,000 contributed by LEAP which was raised through the sale of the former Fullers Almshouses on Church Road. They will be managed by LEAP, who are responsible for selecting suitable residents.

#### Conditions and Requirements

Stansted's almshouses operate under the terms of the Fullers Charity, established in 1882 by the Fuller Maitland family of Stansted Hall.



The original bequest provided homes for women over 60 facing hardship in later life. While this condition still applies, the new almshouses are also open to men over 60 who are struggling financially, with preference continuing to be given to women in similar circumstances.

Applicants should either live in Stansted Mountfitchet (no minimum residency period is required) or demonstrate strong family connections to the village.

#### Final Say

LEAP, in consultation with Uttlesford District Council's housing department, will make the final decision on beneficiaries. The Parish Council may suggest suitable candidates but does not have the final say. If future vacancies arise, there will be no waiting list. Instead LEAP will advertise them through *The Link*, the Parish Council website, and social media.

#### Terms of Occupancy

Please note that almshouses are not rent-free. Residents pay a weekly maintenance contribution set at a level that ensures eligibility for Housing Benefit. Occupants are also responsible for their own utility bills. There is no fixed tenancy term – residents may remain in their almshouse for life.

#### How to Apply

Completed applications must be returned by 31st October. Application forms are available from Clare Heyes, Clerk to the Fullers Almshouse Charity / LEAP. To request a form please email:

 Clerk@LEAPalmshouses.co.uk

### Have your say on the NHS 10-year plan

Consultation: 30th September at Birchwood High School

There is still time to have your voice heard on the future of NHS services for our community at the One Vision, One Care - Hospitals and Communities Together consultation event. This is to be held on Tuesday, September 30th at Birchwood High School. At it you can hear Chief Executive of Princess Alexandra Hospital, Thomas Lartery, explain how health services will be reshaped over the next decade to better meet community needs. You will also be able to ask the PAH's chief executive about the Trust's current services. The event by the hospital's Patient Panel features a light buffet and lasts from 6-8.30pm. You can reserve your space at the event by either booking on Event Brite using the QR code opposite or by emailing:

 paht.patie.t.panel@nhs.net



### No space for village fireworks display

Preparations for an astro pitch take priority at fireworks site

For residents who may have missed our announcement in these pages back in June — unfortunately, there will be no community Fireworks Extravaganza in 2025. This is because the only suitable site to host fireworks in Stansted—the playing fields at Forest Hall School—are being converted from grass to astroturf. With alternative venues like the Recreation Ground and Elms Farm being either too close to housing or to woodland and trees, there seems little prospect currently of holding community fireworks in the future.

### Anglia in Bloom Awards 2025



For the third year in a row the village earned a Silver Gilt award for its entry into the Anglia in Bloom Garden competition. Parish Councillor Alan Barnes attended the award presentation in September. He said Stansted should be happy with its performance in the prestigious garden competition – all things considered. "AiB categorise Stansted as a town for judging purposes. This puts us at a disadvantage," Cllr Barnes explains.



*Perhaps the star of Stansted's AiB entry was Bentfield Primary School, picked out by an award by judges for their work transforming their allotment at Walpole Meadows*

"We get lumped in with much larger and better resourced places like Chatteris in Cambridgeshire. Stansted doesn't really have a large open space to site a fountain or statue. These are the sort of features that can catch a judge's eye and put you in reach of a gold certificate."

It's not all about winning certificates of course. Cllr Barnes, who co-ordinates Parish Council competition efforts with the village's chief AiB organiser Trevor Lloyd, says the prime motivation for the SMPC is to leave a legacy of improvement for residents by participating

"Planning is already underway for next year, as we will likely need to invest more money into our Open Spaces to do so."

### Skatepark Jam 2025



Once again Seann Tompson is the person to thank for organising and running a smooth and well attended Skatepark Jam on Sunday, 31st August. Hundreds turned out to enjoy delicious food served up by local caterers as they watched talented young bikers, skaters and skateboarders compete for prizes at the Skatepark Jam in the Parish Council's Lower Street skate park. Head over to our Instagram to check out pics of the event.

 <https://www.instagram.com/stanstedparishcouncil/?hl=en>



### Car Parking

We have two car parks in Stansted. While Uttlesford District Council operate both Lower Street and Cra on Green, they only own the former, with Cra on Green belonging to Stansted Mountfichet Parish Council.

Uttlesford's Lower Street car park shares its northern boundary with land owned by Mr Alan Goldsmith, forming part of the grounds of Mountfichet Castle. The car park is heavily criticised locally as being confusing. It accommodates short and long stay parking spaces, a coach park, NHS and leased parking areas, all alongside the private parking areas operated by the Castle.

Complaints have been received from drivers who have purchased a ticket from the 'wrong' machine and have received a parking ticket. There has been long running discussions between the District Council and Mr Goldsmith regarding the boundaries in two specific areas of the Lower Street car park, and who has ownership of these. A full survey has been carried out by qualified surveyors to establish the land registry position.

Agreement has been reached that the District Council will take over the management of the car parking spaces of Mr Goldsmith. A profit-sharing agreement will be established.

### Local Government Reorganisation



Unitary 1 325,609 total	Epping Forest: 135,975 Harlow: 96,940 Uttlesford: 93,594
Unitary 2 510,162 total	Braintree: 159,957 Colchester: 196,998 Tendring: 153,207
Unitary 3 331,757 total	Brentwood: 76,152 Chelmsford: 185,278 Maldon: 68,327
Unitary 4 368,745 total	Basildon: 190,544 Thurrock: 178,201
Unitary 5 360,317 total	Castle Point: 89,858 Rochford: 88,188 Southend: 182,271

The reorganisation imposed on Uttlesford continues to take up a lot of time. This is the biggest change to local authorities in our area for 50 years.

The Government wishes to see unitary councils established. These would deliver all local government services. Two-tier local government County Councils and District Councils would be abolished. Instead, we will see the creation of unitary councils.

The issue is the number of unitary councils for Essex. Should there be three as the County Council want or five as the majority of district councils want.

The Uttlesford District Council will at their meeting in September debate the business case for five unitary councils. This sees Uttlesford merge with Epping Forest and Harlow councils. The business case will be submitted to the Government. We are expecting a decision from the Minister next Spring.

Why does this matter? The three unitary model would take

the local out of local government. It would mean the creation of mega councils serving populations of half a million people or more. This could mean Uttlesford being part of a new unitary that would include Braintree and Colchester. There is no independent, up-to-date evidence to justify councils of this size. Uttlesford is currently served by 39 District Councillors and 4 County Councillors. Reorganisation will significantly reduce their number. This, I fear, will weaken the link between councillors and voters.

### Local Plan

Uttlesford is still without a Local Plan. It has been examined by Central Government Inspectors. We still await their report. The Planning Inspector's final report recommends whether the District Council can adopt the plan. Once adopted, the Local Plan will be used to make decisions on all planning applications.

In the meantime, we are subject to speculative planning proposals. The Gorsefield Residential Studies Centre at Elsenham Road is owned by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. However, the land surrounding the centre (21.1 acres) belongs to the London Borough of Islington. Islington Council has taken the decision to put up for sale its land. It is being posted as "an exceptional strategic development opportunity located in the affluent town of Stansted Mountfichet". The land is proposed to accommodate potentially 182 housing units. This is not a featured application in the Uttlesford Reg 19 Local Plan or the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and hopefully would not secure support in planning terms. It is also understood that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets at Gorsefield is to campaign against the proposals.

### Ward Members Initiative Grant-New Homes Bonus

This scheme which awarded councillors £2,000 per annum to spend on good causes in their ward sadly came to an end this year. For 2024/25 I was pleased to support St. Mary's Church (towards the cost of replacement of the boiler), Uttlesford Community Travel, Stansted Millers, Touchpoint Christmas Kids Appeal and the Huw Johnson Club.



Essex Highways will be closing **LOWER STREET** from October 11th-18th after the junction with Grove Hill for road improvements. Then Affinity Water will be closing High Lane (near Burchalls) from 20th October to 2nd November for infrastructure work. Network Rail need to carry out repairs to the railway bridge that will see **CHURCH ROAD** closed at this point from 18th-19th October.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/future-roadworks-map>



## 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](mailto:info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01279 813214

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

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

**Reception:** Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

**Website:** [www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil)

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

### Parish Councillors

**Ryan ACKERMAN** | ☎ 07557677995

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**Alan BARNES** | ☎ 817214

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**Maureen CATON** | ☎ 813914

*Chair of SMPC*

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**James HARDY** | ☎ 07809598393

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**Ayub KHAN** | ☎ 815800

*Vice Chair of SMPC*

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**Allan LOVE** | ☎ 817620

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**John O'BRIEN** | ☎ 816772

[johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk](mailto:johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk)

**Geoffrey SELL** | ☎ 815925

[cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk)

### Parish Council Meetings

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

**1st October** Full Council

**8th October** Open Spaces

**15th October** Highways sub-committee

**22nd October** Full Council

### Uttlesford District Councillors

**Alan DEAN**

☎ 813579 email: [cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Geoffrey SELL**

☎ 815925 email: [cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Ray GOODING**

☎ 813103 email: [cllrGOODING@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrGOODING@uttlesford.gov.uk)

**Nick CHURCH**

email: [cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk)

### Essex County Councillor

**Ray GOODING**

☎ 813103 email: [cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.ray.gooding@essex.gov.uk)

### Member Of Parliament

**Kemi BADENOCH MP**

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA ☎ 0207 219 1943 email: [kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk)

### Police

PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART

email: [alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk](mailto:alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk)

Non-urgent incidents call: 101

Serious incidents call: 999 [www.essex.police.uk/ro/report](http://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report)

For Meet-up Events consult the Essex Police website: [your-area/essex/uttlesford-south/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area](http://your-area/essex/uttlesford-south/about-us/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area)

### Library

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

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

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

### Advice Sessions

**Uttlesford Citizens Advice** run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 9.30am-3pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. You can also ask to speak to an advisor during SMPC reception hours via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Ask at our reception for details. **Peabody Trust** run a drop-in service on **Thursday, October 9th** 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 Chapel Hill 10am-5pm, Fridays 1-2pm Saturdays 10-11am; **Community Cafe** Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-noon; **Free hot meals** on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm; **Breakfast Club** every Friday 9am-10am. Contact [info@thetouchpoint.org](mailto:info@thetouchpoint.org) ☎ 07572 114882

### Garden Waste Skip Service

The parish-council funded garden waste service operates on alternate Sundays in the Lower Street Car Park from 12.30-4.30pm. **Skip dates: 12th October & 26th October**



#### Defibrillators locations

Defibrillators in yellow are accessible 24/7. Those 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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## IN THE GARDEN

Bulbs are a fabulous way of adding to your planting to ensure that you have colour all through the year in your garden. They do not cost much so you can afford to plant plenty of them. Bulbs have specific requirements, so give a little thought as to what you plant where. A great shady combo is *Leucojum aestivum* Gravetye Giant, like a giant snowdrop about 50cm tall, planted with Hellebores. *Camassia leichtlinii* Careulea also likes shade; it is a wisteria blue about 70cm tall. Daffodils are generally very shade tolerant whereas tulips need sun. Negrita and Pittsburgh are my favourite shades of purple tulips but there are so many colours to choose from. They should flower from early April until mid-May. I often plant a combination of two or three colours to cover the weeks and complement each other.



After tulips there are the ever-popular alliums. *Allium christophii* is a showstopper with large silver-lilac flower heads; they look best planted in amongst grasses like *Stipa tenuissima* so that the leaves are hidden as they die back. Allium Purple Sensation is tall and deep purple; they do not last as long as *christophii* but come out sooner. Then on into the autumn with *Nerine bowdenii* flowering into November in its vivid shades of pink and white. Bulbs like good drainage; put half a handful of grit under each bulb unless you have really stony soil. Make sure you plant them deep enough, the bigger the bulb, the deeper they should go. Camassias are a very wet bulb; if you leave them sitting around before planting they go mouldy! Only plant snowdrops when they have leaves and do not let them dry out. Finally, only plant English bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, as Spanish bluebells are highly invasive.

Anthea Harrison  
u3a garden group

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## ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

[www.stmarysstansted.co.uk](http://www.stmarysstansted.co.uk)

Happy new term to us! Prospective parent visits to the school for new starters are now welcome in person on any of the following dates in October: Monday 6<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> or Monday 20<sup>th</sup>. All tours will run at both 9.30am and 1.30pm. Please get in touch with us to book a place. If you cannot make any of these dates, please contact us and we will accommodate you.

Matthew Curzon  
Headteacher  
Tel: 812212

Email: [office@stmarys-stansted.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@stmarys-stansted.essex.sch.uk)

## FIRE STATIONS GALORE

For a few years in the early 1960s, Stansted boasted three fire stations. The original station in Chapel Hill which opened in the late 1800s had been demolished to make way for a road widening scheme. The replacement was located at the top of Chapel Hill next to the Quaker Meeting House. It housed the village's fire engines, the second of which served dutifully from 1914 to 1927 and is enjoying a long retirement (more on that in a future edition). Where is the second station, I hear you ask? Allow me to explain. It was built in 1928, opposite the one which was demolished, and was in use until the current (third) station opened in 1960. Today, that old Fire Station is used by the Parish Council and is a building most residents will know, being next to the library on Chapel Hill.



The crew at Stansted Fire Station together with the Parish Council are exploring the possibility of making a nod to the past by painting the doors of the old Fire Station bright red and providing some information outside explaining its former use. That is where you come in! If anyone has any memories, photographs or stories about the old Fire Station or the firefighters who worked there, we would love to hear from you. This will help us better understand the building's history and enable us to capture these memories for future generations. Please email me any information you would like to share. We look forward to keeping you updated on our little project in future editions of The Link.

Billy Parr  
Crew Manager  
Email: [billy.parr@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:billy.parr@essex-fire.gov.uk)

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**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 10.00am-4.00pm Thaxted Church**

Our fair began 15 years ago, with only a handful of stalls, as a small fundraising event for Thaxted church. Since then it has gained a reputation for quality and atmosphere which our dedicated team work hard to sustain and develop. This year we have over 60 stalls of curated artists and creators from the local area, showcasing pottery, painting, glassware and wood-work. We also run a popular children's trail so there is something for all the family. The fair has proven to be a fantastic fundraiser for Thaxted church with last year's event attracting upwards of 2,000 visitors and this year we are aiming for even more.

The fair is organised by a committee of volunteers working with the support of the local community who all help to make this event special and enjoyable. Catering is provided by a dedicated team from the church serving teas, coffees, fresh cakes and light lunches. Admission is free but donations in support of Thaxted church are welcome. Please join us.

Trudie Tagert  
Email: [trudietagert1@gmail.com](mailto:trudietagert1@gmail.com)

**NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB**

Autumn is now upon us but we were blessed with beautiful summer weather for our August Afternoon Cream Tea. Visitors were welcomed with a glass of fizz and Lorraine Gagen created some gorgeous floral designs which included beautiful blooms she had grown herself. The arrangements were raffled and scones, cream, jam and cups of tea were enjoyed by everyone after Lorraine's demonstration!



**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** will be our next meeting when we will be offering a workshop creating an autumn topiary design. We love to welcome visitors, entry £10; please email: [shirley.wilcock@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shirley.wilcock@hotmail.co.uk) in advance to let us know you will be coming, and to find out the venue. We meet on the third Wednesday 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Sandra Honour  
Email: [sandra@thewesleys.net](mailto:sandra@thewesleys.net)

[www.saffronsymphony.org](http://www.saffronsymphony.org)

**A symphony of stories: Fire and ice**

The orchestra's very popular children's concert returns on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October** at 3.00pm in Saffron Hall. Blazing sparks and snowflakes fly as James Mayhew presents a symphony of stories conjuring a fabulous firebird, ghostly fire-spirits, and the dazzling Snow Maiden.



The orchestra plays music inspired by these dramatic folktales: Rimsky-Korsakov *The Snow Maiden*, De Falla *Ritual Fire Dance* and Stravinsky *The Firebird Suite* while Toto Martinez and James paint, capturing all the colours of fire and ice. Their paintings will be raffled, and the profits will go to charity. James will be signing copies of his new book *A symphony of stories* after the show. Tickets: adults £18 and £21, 18-25yrs £11, under 18s £6, available from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) or tel 0845 548 7650.



Marion Dyer



[www.rainbowstansted.co.uk](http://www.rainbowstansted.co.uk)

We are delighted to announce that we have a new Setting Manager and Administrator who are looking forward to meeting all our wonderful children, as well as their parents and carers over the coming days. I would like to introduce myself as the new manager; I am a qualified Early Years Teacher with many years of experience nurturing and teaching children in Nursery and Reception classes. Jenny, our new Administrator, is returning to work after spending time at home with her young children; she has 11 years' experience as an Early Years and Key Stage 1 teacher.

We deliver a curriculum which follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and offers thoughtful experiences as well as appropriate challenges, which support our children to learn and develop into self-sufficient, confident and kind young people. Our curriculum is delivered through a child-centred pedagogy. Our skilled practitioners build nurturing relationships with the children so that we understand their individual needs and interests which we tap into to support the development of each child. We love to investigate, sing songs, dance and share stories and books with our children. If you would like further information about our wonderful setting please do contact us. We currently have spaces available in our 2-4 years old Explorers and 3-4 years old Adventurers groups.

Lorraine Hayes  
Tel: 814242  
Email: [admin@rainbowpreschool.net](mailto:admin@rainbowpreschool.net)

# THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

www.eastonlodge.co.uk

We now come to the last month of the season at the gardens, with heavy morning dews and mists, lifting to glorious deeply intense blue skies. Some leaves have already fallen due to the recent drought. Will the lovely autumn fungi have spread or retreated? The best colour in the gardens is usually right at the end of October, but will it be early?

We remain open on Thursdays 11.00am-3.00pm until the end of October, and provide visitors with hot drinks and homemade cakes. The last Sunday Open Day of the year is on **19<sup>th</sup> October** and will be fun for all the family. Children will be encouraged to enjoy spooky corners of the woods, Halloween craft activity and garden games. Our archivist is planning to focus on the history of our trees, and the Archive Room will be open for visitors wishing to learn more about the gardens' designers. Bishop's Stortford Ukelele Society will get visitors singing along to their strumming of popular tunes. The gate opens at 11.00am with last entry at 4.00pm. For more information, please see our website.



Our volunteers work in October to make the most of the last flowers, by deadheading and tidying around them. It is also a month for planning the winter season's work. We look for sites to plant a few additional ornamental trees and we plan changes to beds and borders. We will be giving further thought to trees and plants for dry areas of course, but in wet weather we also have boggy areas. We always have room for new bulbs. There is maintenance work to plan too. The Trust welcomes new volunteers throughout the year; please email us if you are interested. Thank you.

Jill Goldsmith  
Tel: 01371 876979

Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

## ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the August draw:

£100	No 104	June Winter
£ 50	No 209	Isabel Thwaites
£ 25	No 278	John Elliott

The next draw will be held on **26<sup>th</sup> October** 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 each year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson

Tel: 819062

Email: jean733@btinternet.com



### Sharing is caring

This has been a bumper year for certain crops grown at our community garden. We have managed to donate over 70kg of produce to Touchpoint, the equivalent of a full beer keg or 144 pints; imagine carrying that back from the bar! The photo below is from one of our many food share deliveries. Dot Salmon, a Touchpoint volunteer, on the left, was delighted to receive this bounty of potatoes, salad and beetroot.

We have had great success with certain produce; the spinach has gone on forever this year, and like most allotments the gifts of courgettes, cucumbers and tomatoes keep on giving! Our slight disappointment has been our first attempt at growing baby sweetcorn; let us just say that the Jolly Green Giant will not be green with envy! We are always thinking of ways to lengthen our growing season, so the volunteers will get their thinking caps on over the coming weeks.



With autumn fast approaching, priorities begin to shift. 29<sup>th</sup> September is known as Michaelmas Day; this traditionally signals the end of the harvest season and sets the tone for winter planting. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested in joining the team, please email: cathmizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson  
Volunteer





## VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER



Our annual Harvest Supper is on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October** at 6.00pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane. As previously we are providing a fish, chicken, sausage or veggie meal with chips. There will also be some light entertainment from the churches, not to be missed! Tickets are £12 adults, £10 accompanied children and **must** be booked in advance from me on 814059, Helen 814865 or Ann 812457. Please bring your own drink and glass. Everyone is welcome.



Marion Dyer



## HATFIELD FOREST

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) › [hatfield-forest](http://hatfield-forest)

### Delicious treats at the Cafe

Our café has had a busy spring and summer with the team working hard to sell our delicious seasonal cakes and bakes including Eton Mess doughnuts and our popular mixed pastries, sausage rolls, pasties, tasty one pots and soups. There have been some news articles recently about National Trust cafés not making their own scones. True, a small number of properties will begin buying in their scones but most cafés, including ours, are still making and baking the majority of their own scones. The reason we do not make all our scones is because we offer pre-packaged gluten free scones, flapjacks and millionaire bars for visitors who have an allergy or intolerance to gluten. By buying these items premade, and not made in our café, we offer a high level of assurance that the products have not been near any other baked goods that contain gluten and avoids cross-contamination.



Our cook has been baking the ever-popular fruit scone, as well as treating us to lemon and white chocolate, raspberry and dark chocolate, and blueberry and oat scone variations. So come and visit us to see what is next. Please check the opening hours on our website. Remember that if you bring your own reusable cup for hot drinks, we can give you 25p off your cup of tea or coffee. Hope to see you soon.

Hannah Underwood  
Assistant Business Services Co-ordinator  
Tel: 870678  
Email: [Hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.underwood@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

[www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk)

During August we hosted a friendly match against Standon and Puckeridge Bowls Club. We were delighted to be supported at this event by Daniel Robinson and Sons, Funeral Directors. Stansted ran out winners 90 shots to 52 in a game played in excellent spirit and lovely weather. In the photo you can see Lee Watkins of Daniel Robinson along with the two club captains.



As I mentioned in the September Link, the A team were involved in a relegation battle. The last game away to the league leaders was testing but the two points gained meant the team retained their place in the top division. The B team are promoted but unfortunately lost out on the overall regional title for Division C. September 6<sup>th</sup> saw the Club holding all knock out tournament finals. The winners were:

- Paul Jordan: Fletcher Cup and Newman Cup
- Fiona Jordan: Eleanor Urwin Championship and the Ladies Challenge Cup
- John Scraggs: Brett Cup
- Graham Ingold: Alcock Cup
- Fiona Jordan and Lorna Paranahtetty: Dolly Thompson Cup
- Graham Ingold and I won the Buck Cup.

On a different note, we are delighted that Janet Hollis has agreed to accept our invitation to succeed her late husband John in becoming Club president. Last but not least our Club will continue to meet on Friday evenings. We realise the outside of our Clubhouse does not look very inviting but rest assured you will receive a warm welcome if you poke your head through the door and our bar is excellent value. Please contact our secretary Peter Beattie for any further information, email: [peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com](mailto:peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com).

David Danby  
Publicity Committee Member  
Email: [daviddanby30@gmail.com](mailto:daviddanby30@gmail.com)



## STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

[www.essexseniorleague.co.uk](http://www.essexseniorleague.co.uk)

Our first team are slowly beginning to gel, with a great mix of both experienced and youth players achieving confidence. This has boosted results so we are now sitting comfortably in the top half of the league table. As the winter months take over and we start to play more home fixtures, our team management will be hoping to lay the groundwork for a promotion push. It has also been a great start for our youth teams; the under 18s midweek side won the local derby away against Saffron Walden. Our sides compete in the Eastern Junior Alliance League; all teams are affiliated to clubs who play in the National League System. There are many sides with a greater catchment of players so competition will always be hard. Our Over 45s Veterans' season is now up and running with additional players drafted in; it is hoped that we will be able to field a full 16 players at each game. The new manager is certainly focused on a good season, having already arranged a number of pre-season friendlies.

Finally, away from football, congratulations to both our mid-week Darts Teams who have successfully won their individual summer leagues; plenty of silverware for both teams and individuals was won. A third team has now been formed and they too will compete in the new upcoming season winter leagues.

### Fixtures at Hargrave Park in October:

9 <sup>th</sup>	U18s v Royston Town 18s TNYL	7.45pm
11 <sup>th</sup>	Coggeshall Town TNSL	3.00pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Basildon Town TNSL	3.00pm
23 <sup>rd</sup>	U18s v St Neots U18s TNYL	7.45pm

*Note: TNYL is Thurlow Nunn Youth League; TNSL is Thurlow Nunn South League*



Tom Williams  
Tel: 07921 403842



## STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

[www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club](http://www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club)

We have had a very busy summer. This was always going to be a difficult year in the Herts and Essex Border League Premier Division. However the spirit of the team remained positive throughout. The Club gained three new players during the summer and they all performed well, as did our teenagers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Division 3 and had a very successful season. The Club would like to thank Andrew Mackinlay and Paul Mason-Smith for skippering both teams so well. During the summer, eight teenagers represented the 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 12 U16s represented the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. They were all given a chance to get involved in the matches; the youth policy is working. Add to this a few matches for our Development XI which is a mixture of youngsters and dads. On some Saturdays the Club managed to field three teams.

The junior section continues to do well. From the ages of five to 15 the young cricketers enjoyed as much play as they wanted. We are fortunate to have dedicated coaches, managers and parents who continue to make this section of the Club really thrive. The U11s enjoyed an evening on the Essex County Ground at Chelmsford competing in the mini matchplay. The end of season *Junior Fun Day* was attended by all age groups plus parents; after cricket there was a barbecue which was followed by presentations. It has been a season of change but overall it has been a very enjoyable summer with a great spirit being built within the Club. Evening *Hundred matches* with Russell Property and Nockolds, the Club's sponsors, were enjoyed by all. The Club is holding a music quiz on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October** at 7.30pm in Elsenham Village Hall, entry £10; please contact me for more details.



David Brown  
Tel: 831011 Mob: 07788 999663  
Email: [david1.r.brown@gmail.com](mailto:david1.r.brown@gmail.com)



**Stansted Tennis Club**  
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[www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](http://www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)

Well done to the 14 ladies who competed in the last fun tournament of the year, in some very warm conditions. Congratulations to Carol Cook and Chris Bailey who defeated Daphne Lunn and Debbie Lane 6-1 and to the consolation winners Gail Hogg and Louise McGran, who just got the better of Lyn Timms and Sue Simpson, beating them 4-3.



### Coaching

Junior and adult group coaching sessions are now underway. For more details, please contact Dan, email: [danw.tennis@gmail.com](mailto:danw.tennis@gmail.com) or Phil, email: [phil\\_tennis@outlook.com](mailto:phil_tennis@outlook.com). Visit our website for information on tournaments, league matches, social events and lots more. New members are always welcome.

Fiona Kelly  
Club Secretary  
Email: [contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk](mailto:contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk)



## DIRECTORY OF LOCAL CLUBS

Beaver Scouts Age 6-8	Angela Madigan Tel: 01371 513028	RSPB	Peter Allen Tel: 07876 295456 Email: peter2349@sky.com
BS Beekeepers	Kate Walker Tel: 07399 197756 Email: secretary@stortfordbees.org.uk	St Clare Hospice	Rebecca Day Email: info@stclarehospice.org.uk
Bowls Club	Peter Beattie Tel: 07850 329192 Email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com	St John's Road and Area Association	Secretary: David Marchant Email: david@marchant.com
Brownies (Tue)	Kathy Shearman Tel: 07724 355533	Scouts (age 10½ -14)	Mike Byrne Tel: 812780
Brownies (Wed)	Susan Scott Tel: 810955	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geofflay.22@gmail.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
Cub Scouts (Tue) Age 8-10½	Huskies Charlotte Graham char.huskies1ststansted@yahoo.com (Thu) Bulldogs Hazel Crundwell 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs@gmail.com	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults) (Juniors)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
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Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07894 944242 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
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History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	u3a	Susan Sedgbeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
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music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	Note: This list will be updated as and when we learn of any changes. If you would like your organisation to be added please let us know by emailing editor@stanstedlink.org.uk.	
Parkinson's UK Uttlesford Support Group	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Rainbow Pre-School	Lorraine Hayes Tel: 814242 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbows (Wed)	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		
Rotary Club	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		

### BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you would like to mark any occasion that is special to you or someone you know, by announcing it in the Link, please email a short message together with your name address and telephone number to: [announcements@stanstedlink.org.uk](mailto: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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