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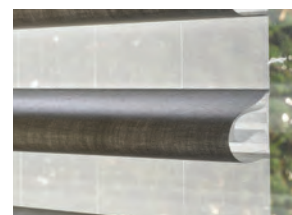
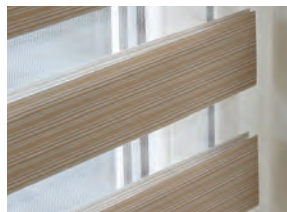
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Front cover

Human Roots

by Jon Budd

Enhanced by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE

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



Many thanks to Trevor Lloyd for forwarding the warm and lovely photo for our front cover this month. September is the start of harvest time, so this is a very appropriate picture. Human Roots are an important part of our entry in the Anglia in Bloom Competition and they are also entered in the Royal Horticultural Society *It's Your Neighbourhood Awards* for which they were graded as outstanding last year. Also thank you to Carolyn Clarke for allowing her picture to be used.

As you would expect, there are few items from schools this month; at the time of writing they are enjoying the long summer holidays. However, during September they will start a new term and we wish them all a happy and successful academic year. One of these days you may want to do what our Stansted Person Tom Gee did over four months recently: take a gap year before university and see the world. There are some terrific fundraising opportunities described in this issue; hopefully you will find one in which you can participate. Perhaps the Grove Cottage Big Walk described below, or if you are a dog lover, how about the *Lead On Challenge* on page 19? Finally, many thanks to our contributors, advertisers and to the Parish Council, who help to keep The Link going.

Ed



www.mencapgrovecottage.org

Great Big Walk for Herts

Join us and make double the difference! We are inviting you to take part in our biggest sponsored walk of the year on **Saturday 27th September**, a 13-mile route through the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, all in support of Grove Cottage. Starting from Tesco Bishop's Park at 9.30am, you will enjoy a scenic walk with entertainment at the start, scheduled breaks along the way and a lunchtime stop at the Catherine Wheel pub in Albury. It is a brilliant way to connect with others, challenge yourself, and help raise vital funds for children and adults with learning disabilities. Registration is £10 adult, £5 child, which includes a Grove Cottage t-shirt and refreshments at various points on the walk. We are proud to be walking alongside the founders of *Helping Herts*, whose partnership continues to strengthen.



If you would like to join the Grove Cottage team, please email: mina@mencapgrovecottage.org. If you are unable to join us, you can support the walk with a donation via our website: www.mencapgrovecottage.org/get-involved/make-a-donation.

Sarah Smith
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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Since the launch of the Society in 2014, its website has continued to evolve and expand as a resource for the local area. We encourage you to step through the website menu to get a feel for what is available. If you want to look something up, you might try either Parishes, What's On, Articles or Walks.

Parishes holds the key to many things. From either the map or the alphabetical listing, select an individual parish to find out a little about its history, the nearest walks or details for a pub or tearoom. Introductions include ideas for further reading and links to useful websites.

What's On lists future events in chronological order. Many entries have a link to further information. We are pleased to give publicity to any event that promotes local knowledge or culture, exploration or conservation.

Articles offers local insight into a wide range of topics.

Walks has general guidance and then three options: *Station walks*, *Quiet lane walks* and *Other walks*. Scroll down the list to find one that suits your need in terms of location and distance. Then click on the walk number to call it up. The first few paragraphs will describe distance, terrain and opportunities for refreshment. When you find a walk you like, print it to take with you. [Control, P] is a useful shortcut to start printing.

Feedback is a way of telling us of changes or something we have missed: perhaps a pub closure, bus route change, additional activity for What's On, or website links or phone numbers that no longer work. I hope these notes have been useful and may make your visits to the website more rewarding.



Ken McDonald
Secretary
Tel: 813226
Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com



ANGLIA IN BLOOM

We welcomed the Anglia in Bloom judges on Wednesday 16th July. They started by viewing a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation in the Mountfitchet Exchange Building. Anglia in Bloom classifies any settlement with a population between 6,001 and 12,000 as a town so we started the presentation by stressing that we are proud of our rural heritage and despite all the residential development in the last 20 years taking us comfortably into this category, we still think of Stansted as a village. The presentation was very well received.



St Mary's School pupils

We started at the TouchPoint garden and spent some time talking to Keith Johnson and his team of volunteers. We then moved on to the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve where we met the volunteer Warden, John Welham; he walked the judges up to the pond whilst outlining all the work done during the past year. Next stop was the Bentfield School Allotment to meet staff and pupils and see the impressive progress they have made since they took it over a few months ago. We walked to the Windmill followed by the Bowling club, the Memorial Gardens, Lower Street and the station booking office. We then headed to the Elms Farm Allotments to meet some of the Human Roots team and learn about their brilliant work.

The last stop of the morning tour was St Mary's churchyard; custodian Lynda Dale met them and enthused about her team and the fantastic work they have done to improve the churchyard. After a buffet lunch generously provided by Lynda, we squeezed in a visit to St Mary's School to meet teacher Vicky Whitbread and a group of super keen pupils in the school garden. We will hear the results at the Awards Day on **Wednesday 4th September** so look out for our report in the October edition of The Link.

Trevor Lloyd
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Email: stanstedinbloom@gmail.com



ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

Hospice User Forum

We have launched this new dedicated platform, designed for listening to and learning from those who matter most, the people who use our services. The first quarterly forum took place in April and we are now inviting past and present service users, their families and carers to register their interest in attending the next one on **Tuesday 7th October**, at the hospice.

Our Medical Director Dr Qamar Abbas said: *At our hospice, we are committed to continuously improving the quality of care and support we offer and believe that the experiences of our services users are vital in shaping the future of hospice care. At our next Hospice User Forum, we will be offering a safe, respectful space where participants can share their feedback and suggest improvements so we can continue providing compassionate, responsive care and support which is truly centred around the needs of local families. If you have received support from St Clare Hospice in the past two years, either directly or as a carer or family member, we would love you to be involved. Feedback from our community helps us better understand what works well and what we can improve as we look ahead. From clinical care to emotional support, every insight is a chance to improve the journey for others.*

To register your interest in attending the October forum, please visit our website, or for more information email: userforum@stclarehospice.org.uk.

Eleanor Kent
Marketing and Communications Manager
Tel: 773773
Email: eleanor.kent@stclarehospice.org.uk



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

At our most recent meeting we all enjoyed a very lively game of seated cricket. Thank you to Sean from Clock Cricket for such a fun evening. Next up we have a fish and chip supper which we are all looking forward to.

We are delighted to have received some more funding recently from The Link, the Rotary Club of Bishop's Stortford, The Dog and Duck, through their monthly quiz, and Uttlesford District Council via Geoffrey Sell. A huge thank you to all our supporters; it is fantastic to see the community getting behind the club and helping us to keep delivering activities for our members. As always, anyone interested in joining as a member or a volunteer, please do get in touch.

Ellen Brooks
Tel: 07800 896516
Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk

STANSTED EVENING WI



The speaker at our July meeting, Bill Hamilton, gave a very lively talk about his life as a journalist and broadcaster. He came from Dundee originally, starting as a reporter on the local paper. He was sent to London as part of a transfer scheme but whilst covering mundane news items he inadvertently got caught up in major events when the IRA planted a bomb in Airey Neave's car. His career took off from then and he ended up working at the BBC. He was highly interesting and entertaining. In early August we held a garden Tea Party for Breast Cancer Now. A very enjoyable afternoon was shared and a total in excess of £600 was raised. Thanks are given to those businesses kind enough to sponsor our raffle, including Daniel Robinson, Chigwell Nursery, Folies, Yeomans and Paola's.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 11th September** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint, when our speaker will be Sally Tilstone whose talk will be *My travels as a guide to a VIP*. The competition is a hair ornament. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



www.tasbs.org.uk

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 9th September** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA), with coffee available from 10.00am. Our speaker will be Clare Ford-White on *Dutch paintings of everyday life from Hals to Vermeer*.



Everyday life as an independent subject, virtuous or otherwise, seems to have been established in classical times in fresco and mosaic; however with the beginning of Christianity, the subject all but disappeared. Domestic details and street scenes began to emerge again in the paintings of the 14th and 15th centuries, and in

the 16th century, with Flemish artists such as Pieter Bruegel the Elder, it emerges as an independent subject. Everyday life becomes an important, amusing and vibrant subject for newly protestant 17th century Dutch painters, such as Frans Hals, Jan Steen, Pieter de Hooch and Nicolaes Maes, as well as a host of other fascinating painters, culminating in the work of Vermeer. Come and be entertained, enthralled and amazed. Visitors are very welcome; suggested donation £7. If coming by car, please also register your car number at SMA reception. Please see our website for details. Our Membership Secretary, Sue Chapman, can be contacted on 508542 or email: info@tasbs.org.uk.

Michael Fitch

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

At the time of writing this article, the Club members, their friends and family are looking forward to a Cream Tea afternoon with a mini floral demonstration by the talented Lorraine Gagen, pictured below with one of her displays. This is always a very popular event in the Club's calendar and thanks must go to all those who help, bake and support us.



September will see us welcome a new demonstrator to the Club, Violeta Veikniene. She qualified as a National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) demonstrator in 2024 and will be travelling all the way from Norwich to delight us with her stunning displays. Please join us for this exciting evening on **Wednesday 17th September** 7.00pm for 7.30pm but note that our venue will be Quendon Village Hall CB11 3XQ. Visitors are always welcome, entry: £10. The future Club venue is to be confirmed but we will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

Sandra Honour
Tel: 07946 582441
Email: sandra@thewesleys.net



THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Who knows whether we will have a warm or cool September, but whatever the weather why not take a stroll down Chapel Hill, or along Lower Street or Church Road and join us for free coffee, cakes and biscuits at *The Place on the Hill*? If you would like to get out and meet people, we offer a safe and friendly environment for adults. There is no need to book, just come along to the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill. We are open every **Wednesday 10.00am-noon** and everyone is welcome. We also have a jigsaw you can work on. There is limited parking behind the church. If you have children, please come along to *Fun Place on the Hill* which opens on Fridays; see separate article for more information.



Mike and Marion Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: theplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 2nd Sep

Dog and Duck, Lower Street

The Glassmaker
by Tracy Chevalier

Set in Venice in 1486, women are not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family from ruin. She works in secret, knowing her creations must be perfect to be accepted by men

All Welcome Tel 813056



Stansted & District
Liberal Democrats

GARDEN PARTY

3 pm Sat 6th Sep

7 Blythwood Gardens

Tickets £10 to include scones
strawberries, Prosecco or fruit juice

For catering purposes please tel
Geoffrey 815925 or Catherine 813579
to let us know you are coming

St Peter's Church Ugley

Sarah Rosewell (Soprano)

Maxine Mott (Organ)

7.30 pm Sat 6th Sep

Bach Cantata no 199

Vivaldi Motet

Tickets £10 Tel: 812263 or email:
robert.mckean5@btinternet.com
then pay cash on the door

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

2	Tue	Stansted is Well Read
4	Thu	Local History Society
6	Sat	Lib Dem Garden Party Music recital
7	Sun	Windmill Open
9	Tue	Link copy due in today Coffee with Cops The Arts Society BS RSPB
11	Thu	W I
14 & 28	Sun	Skips
17	Wed	Ugley W I Newport Flower Club
18	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting
19	Fri	Hill Chilli
20	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market
21	Sun	Apple and Bees Open Day
26	Fri	Macmillan Coffee Morning
27	Sat	Grove Cottage Walk Elsenham Farmers' Market The Post Floyd Dream

Dog and Duck 8 pm
Touchpoint 7.30 pm
7 Blythwood Gardens 3 pm
St Peter's Church, Ugley 7.30 pm 1.30 - 5.30 pm before noon
St Mary's Church 11 am - 12.30 pm
Southmill Arts 10.40 am
Bishop's Park Comm Cntr 7.30 pm
Touchpoint 7.30 pm
Lower St Car Park 12.30 - 4.30 pm
Ugley Village Hall 2 pm
Quendon Village Hall 7.30 pm
St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
31 Chapel Hill from 7 pm
Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
Old Lane Hse, Church Rd 10.30 am
Tesco, B Stortford 9.30 am
Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
St Mary's Church 7.30 for 8 pm



Green Waste
Skip Dates

Sundays 12.30 - 4.30 pm

14th & 28th Sep

12th & 26th Oct

Lower Street Car Park

NEWPORT FLOWER CLUB

7.30 pm Wed 17th Sep

Quendon Village Hall

Note change of venue

Violeta Veikniene

Demonstrator

Visitors welcome entry £10
Plenty of free parking



GREAT BIG WALK FOR HERTS

9.30 am Sat 27th Sep

Start and finish at Tesco
Bishop's Park, B Stortford

Adults £10, child £5

Includes free t shirt and
refreshments along the route

Lunch Stop at Catherine Wheel Pub, Albury

Call 651908 or visit

www.mencapgrovecottage.org



Friends of
St Mary's Church

Post Floyd Dream

7.30 for 8 pm Sat 27th Sep

Returning by Popular Demand

Incredible Sounds and
Laser Light Show

Tickets £28 from

www.ticketsource.co.uk/

st-marys-church-stansted



HILL CHILLI

7pm Fri 19th Sep

Sonia's Place, 31 Chapel Hill

Fun, Friends and Food

Veggie Option Available

Bring your own drink

Tickets £10 on the door All Welcome

Proceeds to St John's Church Hall

Macmillan Cancer Support

Come and join
Stansted's own



10.30 am Fri 26th Sep

Old Lane House, Church Road

Raffle ~ Cake Stall

Bring and Buy

All Welcome Tel: 813172



APPLES AND BEES

11 am - 5 pm Sun 21st Sep

Music by Rock Choir & Harlow Band

Fun for all ages including
apple juicing, spot the bee,
apple and honey cake tasting

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

All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979



10 am - noon
Sat 20th Sep
Ugley Village Hall

Fruit and Veg ~ Eggs

Fish ~ Beef ~ Pork ~ Lamb

Bread ~ Home Baking ~ Jam

Chutney ~ Honey ~ Skincare ~ Plants
Refillable Laundry and Edible Products

Knitting and Needlework

Refreshments and Free Parking
For info and future dates tel 814052



BIRCHANGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

A fresh new start to the year

We are so excited to welcome everyone back for the new term and to step forward together into another year of growth, learning and joy. This term marks the beginning of fresh topics, new discoveries, and special moments with friends, both old and new. As we begin this chapter, we look forward to fulfilling our school's vision of *Life in all its Fullness*, with a sense of purpose, curiosity and hope. From exciting new starts in classrooms, to clubs, enrichment activities, and opportunities to shine in all areas, there is so much to look forward to in the weeks ahead.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
Tel: 812362

Email: admin@birchanger.essex.sch.uk

DAISY MAY'S FARM

www.daisymaysfarm.org



Come and have fun on the farm this September and bring your friends. We have a fabulous safe area to play in, picnic area, splashing stream, woodland trail to explore, themed crafts, den building, refreshments and ice creams as well as lots of animals to see; we now have pony rides too! We also still have lots of babies of all sorts everywhere, chicks, ducklings, and you can even cuddle the lambs and kid goats; they all love our visitors. Entry: £6 (under 1s free) and it really is a fabulous day out for all the family.



We also have our terrific campsite, and you can stay in the woodland area and get back in touch with nature or stay in our camper or caravan paddock where there is lots of space and lovely scenery. All these options obviously include entry to the farm. What a fabulous holiday and all for just £25 a night, right on your doorstep. Please book through our website, thank you. The holidays might be coming to an end, but the fun carries on. There really is so much to do and see at the farm and our animals just love seeing you all, so do be sure to come and see us. You can find us at Hall Road, Elsenham CM22 6DN.

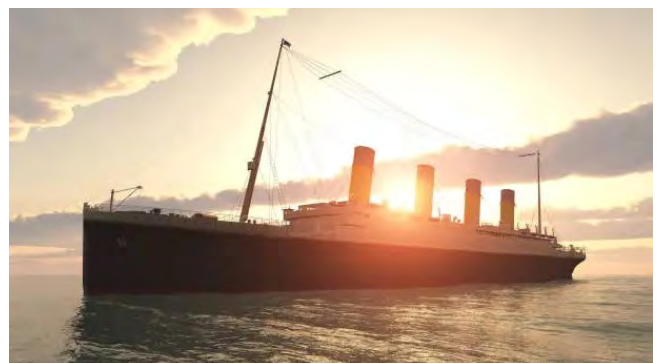
Elaine Terry
Tel: 07747 787973



www.u3asites.org.uk/stansted

This year, u3a Week takes place from 20th-28th September. This is an annual event which celebrates the activity, fun and learning taking place across the movement every day. It is a celebration of positive ageing, highlighting the lived experience of our members. Whether you want to sing, dance, exercise, or learn something new, there is no better place to do it than in the company of friends and likeminded people. Joining the u3a gives you all this and more!

If you would like to know more about being a member of Stansted Mountfitchet u3a, come along to our monthly meeting on **Thursday 18th September** 1.30pm for 2.00pm in St Theresa's Parish Centre, High Lane. You will not only be assured of a very warm welcome along with tea and biscuits, but will also learn from Steve Lester all about the *Titanic from Launch to Loss*.



Steve, an experienced Fine Art valuer and auctioneer, has run several provincial salerooms across Essex over the past 20 years. He is also a member of the renowned Titanic Historical Society and has been consulted by several TV production companies as the Titanic expert. He will share his love of the ship in an interactive talk.

Stansted u3a Singers have been very pleased to welcome some new members to the choir, bringing a new depth and vibrancy to their sound. Singing in a group is an invigorating experience; breathing and singing together benefits our health and sense of well-being. So, whether you are already an experienced choir member or a novice, come along and join us.

Rehearsals are well underway for our annual concert on **Saturday 4th October** at 3.00pm in St John's Church. Posters will be displayed around the village in September giving details of where to buy tickets.

Susan Sedgebeer
Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com

LINK ADVERTISING

We are now taking bookings for our new printing year. All sizes available including on the cover

Prices from £280 for the whole year!

See www.stanstedlink.org.uk/advertising

Email: adverts@stanstedlink.org.uk
call Marion on 814059



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

The Fun Place is open every **Friday, including school holidays, from 9.15am-11.30am**, in the Free Church Hall, and it continues to be a popular meeting place. All ages are welcome, although particularly suitable for children. We look forward to seeing our regular visitors, and a warm welcome is given to newcomers. Parents and carers, children and all age visitors are welcome to drop in. There is plenty of space to run around and play with the toys. Everyone enjoys the Sing-Along at around 10.30am.



Adults chat over coffee in a relaxed atmosphere. Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and hot drinks and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. Looking forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards

Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



www.letstalkstansted.org

Hopefully you have all had time to relax over the summer taking a well-earned break. With children back at school in September it is time to focus on yourself and your own mental health. We still have our weekly Muddy Walkers group meeting on Thursdays at 7.30pm by the Co-Op, plus there is always plenty to be involved in at the Veg Shed. The next big event will be the Wellbeing Festival on **Sunday 5th October** 2.00pm-5.00pm in St Johns Church and Hall.

As the festival approaches, it is time to start preparing for a day filled with activities, stands and experiences designed to enhance your physical, mental, and emotional health. It offers something for everyone, from buying local produce to meeting new groups and local charities. Feel free to join in any of these events to learn more about us and how you can get involved. As always, we are here to listen so reach out if you need to talk.

Vanessa Morgan

Email: info@letstalkstansted.org



UGLEY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Butterflies, ladybirds and rainbows were the theme for our July meeting. Our booked speaker from Dial a Ride had to cancel but our new secretary Karen Greaves came to the rescue with a brilliant idea of painting our own suncatchers and by the end of the meeting there was a great, colourful display! The speaker for our next meeting on **Wednesday 17th September** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall will be Quintus Benziger. He will be taking us on our tour of music through the ages. Why not come along for the afternoon and hear what he has to say and play? You would be most welcome!

Andrea Fitt

Tel: 815922



FOREST HALL SCHOOL

www.foresthallschool.org

In July the School hosted *FHS Talks*, our flagship public speaking competition. Sixteen finalists from Years 7 to 10 took to the stage to deliver powerful, personal and persuasive speeches on topics such as the death penalty, beauty standards, climate change and criminal gangs. Each student had worked with an English teacher over several weeks to develop their talk, refining their content, structure and delivery in preparation for the big night.

The event was a true team effort, with staff from across the school working tirelessly to make the evening a success, mentoring and coaching students as well as managing sound, lights, logistics and backstage nerves. Charlie Coe took to the microphone as our energetic host for the evening, keeping the audience entertained between speeches and introducing each speaker with wit and warmth. Musical interludes from our talented school band added to the atmosphere, and the evening was smoothly supported by the Student Executive Team, who took on ushering, miking up speakers, managing the stage and supporting the judges.




Photo shows Grace Taylor Year 9 winner with Team English

We are incredibly proud of our students for the creativity, confidence and passion they showed throughout the process. Events like *FHS Talks* prove just how powerful young voices can be. We look forward to doing it all again next year.



Iris Evans

Governor



Stansted Pilates & Osteopathy



the osteopath

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STANSTED PEOPLE

TOM GEE



Tom attended Bentfield Primary School and then he moved on to The Bishops' Stortford High School. This was a good match for Tom because it is a very strong sports school, especially for rugby, and Tom loves sport, particularly rugby, hockey, tennis, golf and swimming. Looking back, he reflected that the strength of the school is the emphasis on resilience and the importance of personal presentation. Tom's goal throughout school was to excel academically; with hard work and determination, he achieved his target and will soon be studying Biochemistry at Durham University. He is coming to the end of a gap year, and has recently returned from several months in Southeast Asia travelling with a group of school friends. He regards this trip as his best education.

The cultural impact of this trip on Tom and the group was huge. Bangkok was the launch pad for their travels and was an explosion on the senses: huge crowds on the intensely populated streets filled with traders, tourists, shoppers, and families living their lives bustling and jostling for space, while humid and stifling hot air made exploring this enrapturing and electrically charged city a wonderful and exciting challenge. From Bangkok they travelled down to southern Thailand, exploring the jungles and beaches. This area is geared heavily towards the tourist industry, but the warmth and kindness of the local people was evident throughout.

They moved to the rural north and then on to Laos, a country where there is no word for *leisure*. The people work relentlessly, perhaps in a daytime profession such as teaching and spending their evenings tending crops. Laos led on to Vietnam and then to Indonesia. Without doubt, the abiding impression of these countries, particularly the rural areas, is the high importance of social and family values. The people work incredibly hard for their families, as do people around the world, but their social structure, the high value placed upon family, friendship and community, seemed to Tom to make people happier than we are in the Western world where material wealth appears to take precedence over happiness. It was a message and lesson that Tom and his friends took home with them.

Another lesson Tom is keen to share with would-be travellers who plan to visit this part of Asia is the use of mopeds. These are the cheapest and easiest way to move around, but there are important factors to bear in mind. Mopeds generally available for hire are 125cc engines; however, most UK travel insurance

companies only cover 50cc engines as standard. It is imperative that the insurance covers the higher engine rating otherwise your medical insurance will not cover the medical expenses in the highly probable event of an accident. Everyone in the group, except Tom, had an accident.

My own grandson, Harry, had a treacherous moped crash that nearly ended his life. Hospital care systems there are very different to here. In Vietnam, it is the responsibility of the family to care for their loved ones in hospital. Tom and his two friends cared for my grandson around the clock for five days during the critical stage of his recovery, until his father arrived. They were all tremendous, dealing with a very traumatic situation with maturity and compassion. Finally, do not accept poor quality helmets. Moped companies will try to fob you off with ones that are cheap, inadequate and unsafe. You must insist on good quality helmets; do not accept anything less.

I asked Tom what were the high points of the trip, and he immediately recollected wonderful memories: hiking in the forested Laos hills and waking to the most glorious hazy sunrise; witnessing the entrancing yet deadly blue lava in Indonesia; playing with elephants in the river in a Thai elephant sanctuary; the almost transcendental experience of swimming with manta rays in Indonesia; and the most awe-inspiring and breathtaking four-day pillion passenger motor bike tour in North Vietnam around rough roads that curled and snaked around verdant jungle, hummocked-topped mountain ranges filled with either peach and gold sunrises or melting sunsets dropping on to valleys of flourishing valleys of rivers and paddy fields.



The picture above shows the group of friends at Zabb e Lee cooking school at Chiang mai, Thailand. From left to right: Harry, Lola, Freddie, Jake, Henry and Tom.

I would like to wish Tom all the very best at Durham University. He is a brave soul; biochemistry is not for the faint hearted, but clearly Tom is anything but faint hearted. He will have a choice of wonderful careers ahead of him, but in the meantime, after a summer of earning money for university, student life is soon to be enjoyed, and I have no doubt travelling will always form a big part of his life.

Ed



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We will be holding our annual Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan on **Friday 26th September** from 10.30am at Old Lane House, Church Road. There will be a cake stall, bring and buy sale and a raffle. Please support this worthy cause: everyone is welcome.

Christine and Bill Stiles
Tel: 813172

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk

A big thank you to the volunteers who have dealt with the Himalayan balsam at the reserve once again this year. Over four work party sessions they have pulled up this invasive species to prevent it from spreading and taking over large areas of the reserve. This frequently involves working deep in amongst the nettles, thistles and brambles. We rely heavily on the volunteer group to maintain the nine Essex Wildlife Trust reserves in the Uttlesford area. If you would like to be involved please email: tonymorton@gmail.com.

As mentioned previously, we will be closing the southern entrance to the reserve from the beginning of September as we are repositioning and improving some of the paths. Every winter the paths deteriorate badly and mud forces people to walk further up the slope, damaging our meadows. We will shortly be receiving tenders from contractors for laying of paths in some of the wettest parts of the area, which will hopefully improve the experience when visiting the reserve in winter.

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



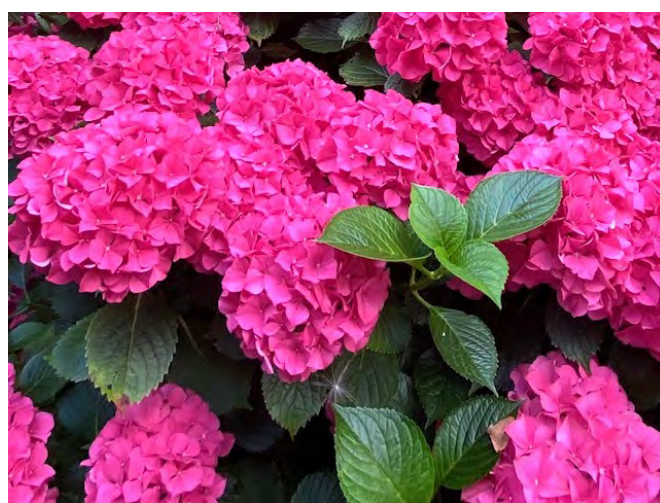
Duck Doodles has submitted another charming picture to The Link. It is included above to celebrate the lovely flower meadows in the nature reserve.

Ed

IN THE GARDEN

Hydrangeas bring changing colour to modern and traditional gardens from summer through to leaf fall. They need moisture, good drainage and part shade. Care depends on the type of hydrangea that you have; identify when in bloom, then note the regime on its label.

Panicked hydrangeas have arching woody stems with pointed bloom clusters. Native to the Americas, bloom colour is sensitive to changes in temperature and light, maturing from vanilla or lime white to red-pink hues. They need 4-5 hours of sun and are relatively hardy. *Hydrangea arborescens* like *Annabelle* are similar but rounder headed. Panicked hydrangeas produce flowers on new growth; prune them down to 60cm in March. *Hydrangea quercifolia* is a larger panicked shrub with distinctive oak-shaped leaves; shelter from strong winds, keep moist and prune minimally in spring or autumn.



Macrophylla hydrangeas, those with large leaves, are native to Asia. Hortensia mopheads comprising masses of tiny flowers called florets are the most likely to change colour from red-pink to blue-purple when aluminium sulphate is added to alkaline soil. Lacecap macrophylla hydrangeas have tiny clusters of flowers in flatter blooms surrounded by showy florets. These are grouped by leaf type: serrata (toothed), aspera (furry) and macrophylla. Macrophylla flower buds form on their existing stems; wait until mid-spring to deadhead and prune the stems back to the first pair of strong buds, otherwise you will have no flowers!

Brightening a shady wall, the self-clinging *hydrangea petiolaris* has white flowers; unfortunately for Stansted, the evergreen climbing *hydrangea Seemannii* needs acid soil. Do not prune for the first 3-4 years. Thereafter, prune wayward stems back immediately after flowering, leaving enough flower buds for a good display next year. All oversized or shabby hydrangeas can be hard pruned in mid-spring; keep well nurtured for a much-revived display the following summer.

Sian Lloyd
Stansted Mountfitchet u3a Garden Group

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HILL CHILLI



Come to the Hill Chilli at Sonia's, 31 Chapel Hill, on **Friday 19th September** 7.00pm onwards, for an evening of fun, friends, and food! Veggie option available. Bring your drink of choice. Entry £10 on the door. All proceeds to St John's Church Hall.

Sonia Levy
Tel: 815282



FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Wow, September already! In July we had another work party thanks to a visit from scout leader Mike and 10 scouts and parents. The task was to spruce up the already immaculate churchyard by removing fallen twigs and any dead flowers. This was in preparation for the visit of Anglia in Bloom judges the following day. The awards ceremony is in early September, so fingers crossed for Stansted. Many thanks for all the hard work.

Do not forget Coffee with Cops meeting on the second Tuesday of the month from 11.00am to 12.30pm in the church. This is a police-led initiative serving as a drop-in centre for people this side of the village like the Forest Hall Estate and Burton End. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9th September**.

I am so excited to tell you about *The Post Floyd Dream* who are returning by popular demand. One of the best Pink Floyd tribute bands of the many which I have seen. This will take place on **Saturday 27th September** 7.30pm for 8.00pm. There will be a licensed bar too. Tickets: £28.00 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-marys-church-standsted. You really do not want to miss this feast for the senses! With incredible sounds and laser light show, this is a definite must see!



Brentwood Mac is a Fleetwood Mac tribute band and they will be with us on **Saturday 4th October** 6.45pm for 7.30pm, and there will again be a bar. Tickets: £19.00 plus £1.60 booking fee from www.brentwoodmac.co.uk. I look forward to sharing these bands with you in St Mary's church.



Lynda Dale
Tel: 07716 099474



www.southmillarts.co.uk

September entertainment

For mystery lovers, acclaimed creator and host Tim Benzie returns with *It's a Mystery!* On **Friday 5th**, Benzie invites audiences to a fascinating deep dive into why we are all drawn to the question: whodunnit and why? *Beyond the Barricade*, the UK's longest-running musical theatre concert tour, returns on **Friday 12th** with two hours of live performances featuring hits from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Hamilton*, *The Lion King*, and more.

Uncle Funk's Disco Inferno returns on **Saturday 13th** for a night of high-energy, feel-good disco classics from legends like Earth, Wind and Fire, Chic, and Sister Sledge, performed by an electrifying nine-piece band. Join us for *The Dusty Show* on **Friday 19th** with an unforgettable night celebrating the life and music of Dusty Springfield, as Louise Anne Masters and her live seven-piece band deliver iconic hits with stunning authenticity and soul-stirring vocals.



Get ready for a singing cinematic circus extravaganza as we bring *The Greatest Showman* to the big screen on **Saturday 20th**. Colin Baker and Terry Molloy return as Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson in *The Sign of Four*, a gripping live radio-play-style stage production on **Saturday 27th**. *Please note: all starting times are 7.30pm with the exception of the Disco Inferno on 13th which begins at 8.00pm.*

Drop in to this year's *Heritage Open Days Festival* at the Bishop's Stortford Museum on **Saturday 13th** 10.00am-1.00pm. Investigate some historic objects led by a member of our museum staff and get creative with our colouring activities. Also, remember to check out all of the fascinating walks and talks at the Bishop's Stortford Museum this September. For more information please see our website.

Seren Stephen
Tel: 710200

Email: sstephen@southmillarts.co.uk



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

One of the peculiarities of my job is the occasional person asking for money on my doorstep by way of an elaborate story. A few years ago, a man knocked for me on a Saturday. He said he was a devout Jew, and could not travel on the Sabbath. He therefore required the cost of a night at the King's Arms, before making his way home the next day. I said no, and felt really bad about it afterwards. Another man said he had recently come out of prison for GBH. He was a charming rogue, and I really liked him. I cannot remember what he said he wanted the money for, but I ended up giving him 50 quid. He said he would come to church that Sunday. He never did, but I got on with him so well I almost did not begrudge him the money.

The third time was a man who had just run out of petrol. He was brandishing an empty jerry can and said his wife and kids were in his car, just round the corner. This time round, my pastoral response was to be sarcastic about his story and tell him to pull the other one. If you had asked me ten years ago, I would have said there is something of the gospel in the event of a stranger turning up, telling a story and asking for grace. Maybe not these days!



The Rev'd Dr Colin Fairweather
St John's Anglican Church



STANSTED QUAKERS

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

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

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

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

Services Together on Sunday (1st Sunday) 9.30am
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St John's is open most days during daylight hours. There is a special section in the Lady Chapel for private prayer.

Contact Sue Moloney Tel: 07759 532115
Email: suemol@uwclub.net

Lettings Yvonne Estop Tel: 07595 087207
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Sunday worship 10.30am. Visitors are always welcome. We join together in stillness for an hour, followed by coffee and chat. Quakers allow each person to explore their own experience of the divine. We try to live our faith in everyday life, with a dedication to peace, simplicity, truth, equality, and nature.

Light Group This is a guided Quaker meditation. There is more information on the noticeboard outside the Meeting House or do contact Sue on 07759 532115. We generally meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

From St John's Registers

July

Baptism

20th Henry James Thorpe

Funerals

8th Ronald David Warner, age 90 - service at graveside, St Mary's Churchyard

18th Lily Ratcliffe - age 89 - at Cam Valley





STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Methodist / URC

Chapel Hill

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Minister Rev'd Gill Hulme
Tel: 504157
Email: gillian.hulme@methodist.org.uk

Secretary Catherine Dean
Tel: 813579
Email: catherine@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Lettings Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: lettings@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Preachers for September

7th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Church Anniversary
14th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - Communion
21st 10.30am Len Ward
28th 10.30am Rev'd Jenny Martin

Baptism

In June we were delighted to welcome Aaron Walker into our church fellowship through baptism. Aaron's parents, Josh and Kalyn, have recently moved into the village. Originally from South Africa, it was lovely that some of their family were visiting Stansted and were able to be with us.

The service was led by our minister, Rev'd Gill Hulme, shown in the picture above with Aaron and his parents.



Peter Trundle

We were saddened to learn of the death of Peter, a lifelong member of our church, at the age of 87. He had suffered a series of strokes from which he never fully recovered, and for the past two years had been living in Elm View Care Home, where he was well cared for. An obituary will appear in a future edition of The Link.



ST THERESA OF LISIEUX CATHOLIC CHURCH

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www.sttheresastansted.org

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

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

Masses:

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6.00pm Mass

Sunday 8.30am Mass
10.00am Mass

Wednesday 12.30pm Mass

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

Baptisms: By appointment



ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the July draw:

£200	No 62	June Cannon
£100	No 18	Gina Thomas
£ 50	No 143	Heather Horner
£ 25	No 183	John Elliott

The next draw will be held on **28th September** 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 vital maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson

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MUSIC AT ST PETER'S UGLEY

A reminder of our music recital by Sarah Rosewell (Soprano), and Maxine Mott (Organ) on **Saturday 6th September** at 7.30pm. The programme includes Bach *Cantata no 199* and a Vivaldi motet. Tickets are £10; please phone or email me to book your ticket and then pay on the door, cash only. Refreshments available. All proceeds to St Peter's Fabric Fund. All welcome; please join us for this special evening.

Robert McKean

Tel : 812263

Email: robert.mckean5@btinternet.com



Teamwork shines through the rain

Rome may not have been built in a day, but the new fruit cage at Human Roots certainly was! On a rather damp afternoon in July, the volunteers gathered to construct the cage, which we had purchased with the grant awarded by Essex County Council Initiatives Scheme. It will give us maximum protection from hungry pigeons and allow us to grow more and varied fruits for the local community. However, nobody said it would be easy; planning and precision was the name of the game and, after a lot of head scratching, star volunteers Alan and Carolyn came up trumps. Holes were soon dug, poles were positioned, netting was fitted, and the fruit cage took shape.



We have high hopes that our squashes grow at the same pace as the courgettes, and the runner beans which were planted by the local cubs group, all add to a hearty harvest and we will be able to donate to Touchpoint for their food share programme. It all seems such a long time ago that all this produce consisted of little seeds on volunteers' windowsills.

It has been a busy time for the volunteers; we were judged by Anglia in Bloom in July, so the allotment was looking its best for that. Let us hope we can repeat our success from last year; 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: cathymizzard@gmail.com.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer

BRAIN TRAINING

The adolescent brain. What makes us human - Part Four

Adolescence: a time of raging hormones, emotions, daftness. When will it finish? Adolescence does eventually end, but not until the mid-20s! Some even say it lasts until 30 years old. Goodness. What is going on? The brain is interconnected and the last part of the brain to connect is the prefrontal cortex, the home of executive function. Adults engage this part of the brain to put the brakes on unnecessary feelings and actions. Adolescents cannot do so yet.



However, the rest of their brain is working just fine, leading to wildly fluctuating moods, wanting new experiences, craving peer approval and being selfless and selfish. Here are some examples: in America, in the foothills of the Sierras, there is a cave system with a narrow, winding passage leading to a sheer drop, 60m deep. Many skeletons of adolescents dating back centuries were found at the bottom of this huge drop; this illustrates how wonderfully curious as well as crazily incautious adolescents can be.

An experiment put adolescent and adult test subjects into a brain scanner and had them play a ball game with two others. At first the ball was tossed equally between players, and then the ball was no longer thrown to the subject. Everybody's brain initially showed distress, but with adults, the frontal cortex kicked in, reasoning that this is only a silly ball game and not worth getting in a tizz about. The adolescents remained extremely upset. Sympathy and empathy. Adults can do both. We engage two slightly different parts of our brain, so we feel both sorry for someone's pain and feel it too. The adolescent brain can only empathise, which is far more intense, leading the adolescent to either change the world to help, or walk away completely, because it is all too much.

Clare Harding
Z-Health Master Practitioner
Tel: 07802 872919





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August has been family time in the gardens, as it is a relaxed space for children in the school holidays, with a variety of garden games. We had a grass coil basket-weaving workshop at the beginning of the month and cordage making at the end of the month. Our volunteers worked on many additional traditional fun activities for our August Sunday Open Day. As predicted, picking fruit and making jam has kept many of us busy in August, which means we will have a fantastic jam and jelly tombola for our September Open Day.



The plum trees have been covered in fruit, with the various heritage varieties ripening in quick succession. The first plums were the Early Rivers, a variety developed and named by the Rivers Orchard in Sawbridgeworth. Our huge raspberries were ripe and ready to sell in early August, swelled by the rains in the second half of July. Visitors have also been buying our vegetables throughout the month; we should be cropping summer vegetables well into the autumn, together with later season produce: squash, sweet-corn and peppers.

This year the flowers and perennials have been growing strongly after the drought, so hopefully the dahlia border will be looking its best by September and the other borders will also fill out again. The roses will still be stunning and the walled kitchen garden as welcoming as ever.

At our Apple and Bees Day on **Sunday 21st September** 11.00am-5.00pm, we will have fun activities and stalls, live music from the Rock Choir and Harlow Concert Band and various local produce stalls, as well as our own apple juicing and cider for sale. We remain open for visitors on Thursdays 11.00am-3.00pm in September and October. Please see our website for more information.

Jill Goldsmith
Tel: 01371 876979

Email: enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk



Is your dog up for the Lead On Challenge?

Join us for the return of *Lead On*, a dog walking challenge. You have the whole of September to see how far you can walk and how much you can raise to support people in Cambridgeshire living with an advanced serious illness or other life-limiting condition. Commit to walking your dog for 3km a day, or aim to complete 90km over the entire month. Every step you take helps provide crucial hospice services and care for those who need it most in your community. As a thank you for your efforts, any participant who raises £30 or more will receive a special Team Arthur dog bandana for their furry friend. Not only will your dog look adorable in it, but you will also help raise awareness of the charity as you walk. Supporters of all ages are welcome to take part as long as they are supervised by an adult and they have, or can borrow, a dog! Let us make this month one to remember while having a tail-wagging good time! For more information visit www.arhc.org.uk/leadon or telephone 01223 675888.

Virginia Goode
Communications and Engagement Officer
Tel: 01223 675876 or 07584 389095



www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Cost of Living help is here

With prices rising faster than many incomes, households across Uttlesford are feeling the pressure. Nearly one in four UK households are cutting back on essentials like food and heating. Energy bills remain over £1,600 a year, and food prices are still up to 25% higher than two years ago. If you are struggling to keep up, we are here to help, offering free, confidential advice. We can help with:

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- Housing, rent and landlord issues
- Employment rights

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If you need extra help or cannot easily get online, just give us a call, send an email, or visit us at Dunmow, Stansted, Thaxted Libraries or the Old Schoolhouse in Takeley. If there is no adviser there in person, you can still speak to someone face-to-face using our easy one-touch video link. All advice is free and confidential.

Leah Clohesy
Tel: 01799 618840
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

...with news of a almshouses for the village, a hearing loop at the reception of the Mountfitchet Exchange, and calls for volunteers at SpeedWatch and at the Walpole Meadows' community orchard

Almshouses

Three new almshouses to be built at High Lane development

Amid a national housing crisis, the Parish Council Chair Maureen Caton in July was able to share with Councillors some good news for those looking for affordable homes locally — a site for three new almshouses has been found in the village!

The former almshouses on Church Road were sold off after they had become unsuitable for the purpose in 2013. The £800,000 raised by their sale was left in the care of Legacy East Almshouse Partnership (LEAP), a specialist in the provision of almshouses. Until now LEAP has struggled to find a suitable location for our replacements. However recently LEAP informed SMPC they had exchanged contracts with Troy Homes to build 3 such residences as part of their High Lane development.

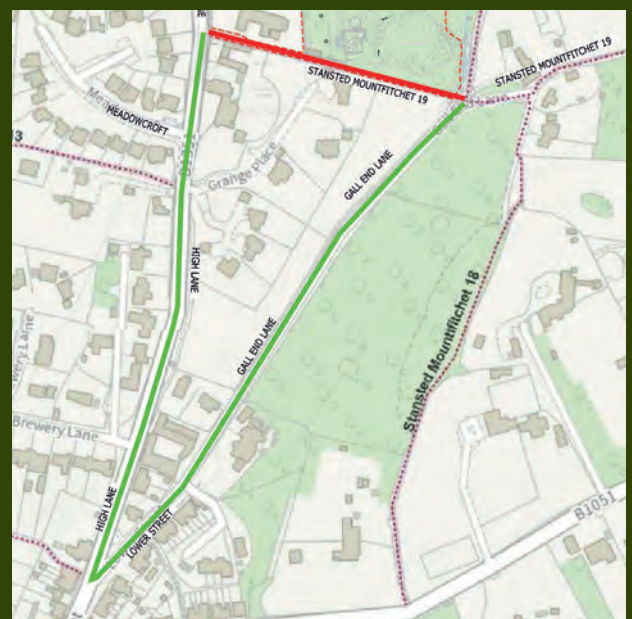
Cllr Caton said: "LEAP had been considering investing the funds in almshouses elsewhere. This would have been a bitter pill as we have had almshouses in the village since the 1830s. So, it is excellent news to know we will be able to

continue to do so in the future."

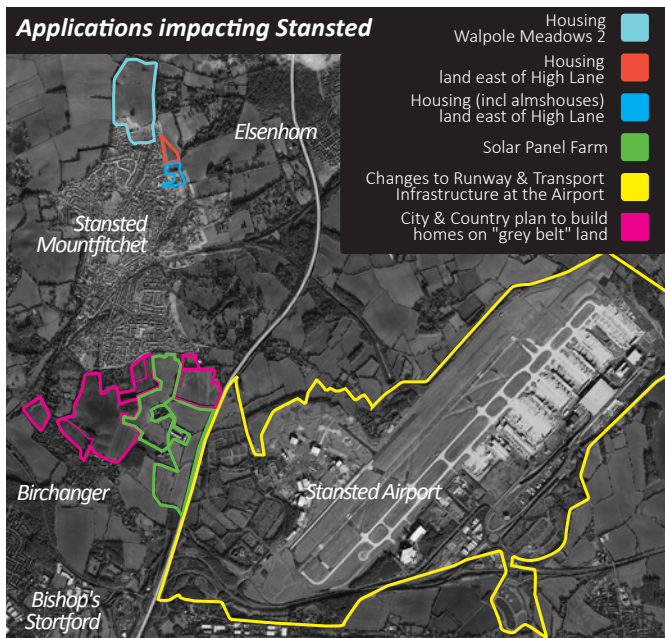
Troy Homes are building 30 new dwellings on land east of High Lane. As part of this project, they will build 3 two-bedded almshouses by January 2026. The selection of appropriate candidates to occupy these will commence later this autumn. Look out for application details on our social media channels and future editions of The Link



Road & Footpath Closures



Building new almshouses comes with some downsides for users of **FOOTPATH 19**. Essex County Council have issued a Temporary Prohibition Order, closing it from 9th September to 9th March. The six-month shut down of the footpath, which links Gall End to High Lane, is needed to ensure the safety of the public and workforce while work to the culvert and road surface in the area is completed. **HIGH LANE** itself will be closed between September 1st to 19th for essential maintenance repairs by Affinity Water. Also this month, **CHURCH ROAD** (near the railway bridge) and **STATION ROAD** will close from 21st to 29th of September. This is to allow the carriageway in these areas to be resurfaced.



Solar Farm

SMPC object to solar panel farm near the airport

At the last Full Council before the start of the summer recess, Councillors considered their response to planning application U T/25/1742/FUL. Trilogy Logistics REIT Limited want permission to build and operate 41,500 solar panels on agricultural land at Parsonage Farm. The applicant says the large-scale renewable and low carbon energy scheme will power the business park currently being built on land next to Stansted Airport.

Following discussions at the meeting, Councillors voted (10 in favour and 2 abstentions) to object to the application. This was for two main reasons:

- The site is within the Metropolitan Green Belt
- There is no direct benefit to the community, as the energy produced will not be shared with Stansted

Greenbelt under pressure

The project is one of two other proposals targeting land to the south of Stansted. As detailed in last month's pages, Stansted Airport wishes to grow its future capacity to handle 51million passengers per year, up from the current 43 million limit, by modifying its runway and nearby road infrastructure.

The second potential application in this area is by City and Country Group. The developer plans to build homes on Green Belt land between Stansted and Birchanger. City and Country reason that the land set aside to stop the merger of nearby towns and villages is, in fact, "grey belt."

SMPC maintain that building 1,050 new homes at this spot is insensitive and could result in Stansted, Birchanger and Bishop's Stortford merging. If all three projects get planning permission, the landscape south of the village could be changed forever — the housing project would squeeze between the proposed solar farm, butt up to the business park and sit side by side with an expanding airport (see graphic).

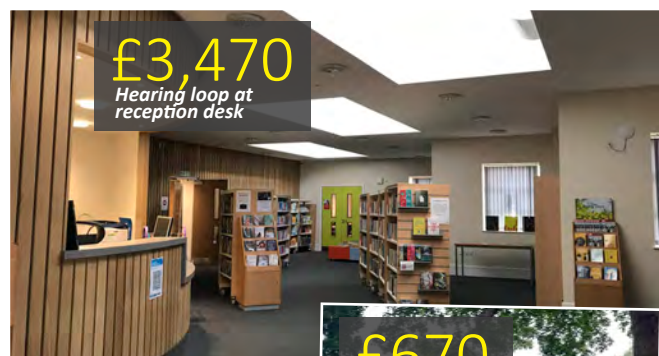
A team from City and Country will meet with SMPC's Planning Working group in September, with representatives from Birchanger Parish and Bishop's Stortford Town Councils also to be present. We will of course keep you updated on any decision.

www.uttelford.gov.uk/planning-application

Library to get a hearing loop

Budget surplus to be ploughed back into the community

Councillors have agreed to spend a surplus from SMPC's 2024/25 budget on improvements at the Recreation Ground, TouchPoint and the Mountfitchet Exchange. Some of the money will go on extra sockets to re-site goal posts at the Recreation Ground. This will allow grass to regrow where it has been worn away at the existing goal areas. A bench is also to be repaired for the second time on the Rec, this time with hardwood slats. Vandals broke the slats when they'd been fixed with soft wood. The surplus will also be invested in a hearing loop at the Mountfitchet Exchange's reception desk, which is shared with library staff. The piece of tech helps individuals with hearing aids or cochlear implants by transmitting audio directly to the user's hearing device, cutting out background noise and improving clarity. The remaining money will be used to fix the front door at TouchPoint and to pay for the cleaning of the charity's kitchen extraction system. Cllr Peter Jones, chair of the Finance and General Purposes committee, said: "We had a larger surplus than expected at the end of the last financial year. Councillors had deferred expenditure on these items until the size of the surplus was confirmed."



The figures shown are estimates provided to SMPC from contractors and suppliers.



£780 Football goal sockets



Apply for a SMPC grant

Spangles to get a sensory garden

A sensory garden is to be installed at the Spangles Family Hub, off St John's Road. This is thanks to the Parish Council approving a grant request from Barnardos for £1,217 for the project. There is now £5,993 left in the SMPC budget set aside for community grants. If you would like to find how to go about applying for one visit our website:

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

It is worth pointing out SMPC is not the only authority you can seek funds from to provide a service to our community. The District Council run a Community Development Grant scheme linked to the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. A funding pot of £84,400 is available to groups within Uttlesford. For details

 <https://shorturl.at/EOHXR>

In addition, our Uttlesford District Councillors have a one-off community grant available for voluntary organisations and groups. This is ideal for pilot projects, one-off events or new services. Grants of up to £3,000 are available. To enquire about their availability, contact any of the four District Councillors for Stansted using their details on page 23.

Paint found for Lower Street roundabout

Letter of complaint appears to stir Essex Highways into action

An official letter of complaint from the SMPC Chair, Cllr Maureen Caton, sent this summer to Kevin Bentley, the Leader of Essex County Council, concerning the consistent failure by the local authority to engage with the Parish Council on issues affecting the village's roads, seems to have done the trick.

Over the last year the Parish Council has repeatedly warned about the dangers posed to the public by the disappearance of road markings at crossings and roundabouts in Stansted. Our pleas for action have gone unanswered. Until now. Within weeks of Councillors agreeing to file off a letter of complaint, fresh white paint appeared on the roundabout at Lower Street!

The village should expect more paint to go on the crossings of Chapel Hill and Cambridge Road, according to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport at the County Council Tom Cunningham.

Cllr Cunningham wrote a letter to Cllr Caton informing her that a road marking crew would be returning to Stansted to repaint lines and markings "in due course". He also said that investigations were underway into maintenance at the entrance to the culvert in Gall End Lane.



The roundabout at Lower Street has been repainted since SMPC's complaint to Essex County Council


Call for Volunteers



SpeedWatch

Can you help keep the village safe from speeding motorists?

SpeedWatch are short of numbers to carry out their patrols. They would love to hear from you if you can spare a couple of hours each week to keep track of motorists flouting speed limits in Stansted. Armed with a notepad and a speed gun, Speedwatchers record details of zooming motorists and pass these on to the police, who determine what action should be taken. Police Community Support Officer Alexander Stewart often attends SpeedWatch patrols, and all volunteers receive training. For more information email Warren Vickers:

 vickersw@aol.com



Walpole Meadows Orchard

Could you help develop our community orchard? Earlier this year the Parish Council took ownership of the orchard at Walpole Meadows. This area was designated as a orchard by the developer, but sadly comes to us with no established community group to sympathetically maintain it as an orchard. SMPC provides grass cutting and essential tree maintenance, but to properly maintain these fruit trees and to develop the area either for nature or as a cropping orchard would require ongoing volunteer support. If you are interested in helping, Councillor Tom van de Bilt would love to hear from you.

 tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Clarification Cllr Sophie Gee would like us to clarify that although she has previous experience as a surveyor, she no longer works in this field as we had implied in last month's edition when announcing her co-option to the Full Council.

Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Committee & Projects Officer Laila Azure-Marxen

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: info@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Tel: 01279 813214

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

Parish Councillors

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ryanackerman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

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George BRAECKMAN | ☎ 07981203831

georgebraeckman@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Maureen CATON | ☎ 813914

Chair of SMPC

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cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Tom VAN DE BILT | ☎ 07710426850

Chair of Open Spaces

tomvandebilt@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

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

3rd September Full Council

10th September Open Spaces

17th September F&GP

Uttlesford District Councillors

Alan DEAN

☎ 813579 email: cllrdean@uttlesford.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL

☎ 815925 email: cllrSELL@uttlesford.gov.uk

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: cllrgooding@uttlesford.gov.uk

Nick CHURCH

email: cllrchurch@uttlesford.gov.uk

Essex County Councillor

Ray GOODING

☎ 813103 email: 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

Police

PCSO 81764 Alex STEWART

email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk

Non-urgent incidents call: 101

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Meet-up Events:

Thursday, September 4th — 5-6pm: Stansted Co-op

Lower Street, Stansted Mountfitchet

Thursday, September 11th — 10am-12pm: TouchPoint

72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet

Thursday, September 18th — 10am-12pm: TouchPoint

72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet

Library

The library at Mountfitchet Exchange opens:

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

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

Advice Sessions

Uttlesford Citizens Advice run a FREE drop-in service every Thursday from 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, September 11th** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with benefits problems, housing, job training and support to overcome addiction

Touchpoint, Stansted

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

Garden Waste Skip Service

The parish-council funded garden waste service operates on alternate Sundays in the Lower Street Car Park from 12.30-4.30pm.

Skip dates: 14th September & 28th September



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.

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A reminder that if you are gasping for refreshment after the musical drought of summer, relief is at hand in the shape of four more concerts arranged by us for the 2025-26 season. We begin on **Saturday 11th October** at 7.00pm in St John's Church with a recital by the Pelleas Ensemble, comprising harp, flute and viola. Music by Dowland, Purcell and Prokofiev (from his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*) is on the programme, as well as traditional Irish melodies and a new piece written specially for the group.

Regular members of our audience should note that this and other Saturday evening concerts will be starting at 7.00pm; people have expressed a preference for this time as opposed to the more traditional 7.30pm. Tickets: £18 adults, £15 over 65s and students, under-21s free, are available on the door.



The Pelleas Ensemble

Other concerts will be given by guitarist Gary Ryan, woodwind quintet Lumas Winds and locally-based concert pianist Chenyin Li. Details of dates and times can be found on our website, as will be programme details as they become available.

There is still time to apply for a season ticket; please contact me. This will save you £3 per person per concert and is very helpful to us in managing our cash flow and forward planning. Season tickets are transferable, so that if you cannot make it on the day, you can lend it to a friend or relative so it is not wasted. If you are already a convert to our programme of world-class live concerts, please help spread the good news whether by word of mouth or by following us on Facebook; search for *Music At Stansted*. Thank you!

Richard Allaway
Tel: 814118

Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk



RSPB

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

September sees the start of our new programme; the indoor and outdoor activities are well supported by a strong communal feel of enjoying birds and nature in companionship with like-minded people. Our monthly meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month and feature a range of guest speakers. The first one is on **Tuesday 9th September** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA and sees the return of Roger Hance. He is an excellent speaker who expertly combines nature and professional photography. He is presenting *The Secret Life of a Wood* which shows some of the birds, mammals, insects, wildflowers, fungi and unusual entities which can be found there.

A popular part of our programme are the short, sociable weekday bird walks which are around four miles and are local to Bishop's Stortford. They feature a variety of habitats and end at a venue for refreshments. The first of these is on **Thursday 25th September** covering Much Hadham and Hadham Cross. We are meeting at 10.00am near St Andrews Church, Church Lane, Much Hadham SG10 6DH. Full details of all our activities can be found on our website and I thoroughly recommend you pay a visit and look around. Alternatively you may like to join our email list so you can receive reminders and notifications about all of our events.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ



The next meeting of our book club will be on **Tuesday 2nd September** at 8.00pm in the Dog and Duck where we will be discussing last month's book choice *The Glassmaker* by Tracy Chevalier.

Our thanks to Sarah, part of The Link production team, for her recommendation. The book takes the reader from the 15th century to almost the present day with the same characters, and is set in Murano, Venice. In 1486 women are not meant to work with glass, but Orsola Rosso flouts convention to save her family from ruin. She works in secret, knowing her creations must be perfect to be accepted by men. Perfection however may take a lifetime and Orsola hones her craft through war and plague, tragedy and triumph, love and loss. The beads she creates will adorn the necks of empresses and courtesans from Paris to Vienna, but will she ever earn the respect of those closest to her? 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

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STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

At the time of writing, the Windmill August Bank Holiday Fête is still several weeks away; however, you will most likely be reading this a few days after the event and hopefully reflecting on a bright, sunny Bank Holiday. There will be a full report in the October Link. Our final two open days of the year are on **Sunday 7th September** and **Sunday 5th October** 1.30pm-5.30pm.



The Stansted Millers recently held a small afternoon tea party at The Hunters Meet in Hatfield Heath for Molly and Geoff Clark, and our treasurer Richard Thomas gave the following tribute: Molly has been a long-standing supporter of the windmill, serving as the independent trustee for around 17 years, retiring from that role only three years ago. She has also been a very active committee member during that entire time, resigning that position only recently. The current excellent state of the windmill is in large measure due to her quiet and steady leadership and support. We feel that not only the Millers but Stansted as a whole owes her a vote of thanks. Her husband Geoff, although never formally a committee member, has always actively supported Molly in her windmill work. Whenever there is work to be done at the mill, Geoff is usually there to lend a hand. It is people like Molly and Geoff that help to make Stansted the community that it is today.

Trevor Lloyd

Tel: 07739 428352

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk



STANSTED AND DISTRICT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Garden Party

A reminder of our garden party on **Saturday 6th September** at 3.00pm in the garden of 7 Blythwood Gardens; many thanks to Mike and Marion Dyer for allowing us to use their beautiful garden again. Tickets: £10, to include scones, strawberries and Prosecco or fruit juice. For catering purposes please let us know in advance if you are coming. See you there!

Geoffrey Sell

Tel: 815925 Email: sellgeoffrey@yahoo.co.uk

Catherine Dean

Tel: 813579 Email: catherinemarydean@btinternet.com

RANDOM JOTTINGS

What is it with people and their mobile phones?

Sitting in the x-ray department of a local hospital recently, I watched a young woman walk in, head down with eyes glued to her mobile. Without raising her eyes, she managed to locate an empty chair and sat down, still staring at her screen. I wonder if she would have even noticed had she landed on someone's lap by mistake. I doubt it. For the 20 minutes or so that I was there the woman only raised her eyes once, to take a selfie. That is something else I do not understand, the apparent need to take selfies all the time. Why? It is almost as if people need to validate their existence by taking endless photos of their daily lives. It makes my favourite hobby of people-watching rather boring. Observing people staring at their screens is on a par with watching paint dry.

Setting a good example

Seeing the Lionesses win the Euros in July was a joy. It also reminded me of the days when it was a pleasure to go and support local football league teams, all male then of course. The atmosphere at live games was lovely; everyone there purely to enjoy the football. Players and supporters had respect for each other and although there was a certain amount of shouting and name-calling, especially at the referee (ref), it was mostly good-natured banter. It seems that as larger sums of money became involved in the men's game, things changed. Players got more aggressive and so did the fans. It became less about *the beautiful game* and more about needing to win at all costs.



Now players in the men's game appear to dive to the ground and writhe in agony at the slightest contact with the opposition in the hope of being awarded a penalty or free kick. If said penalty or free kick is not awarded then teams turn on the poor ref. Watching the women play is so refreshing. Very few dives in all the matches I saw at the Euros and virtually no full-scale arguments with the ref. What good role models for those aspiring to take part in any sport, at any level.

Loki

If Loki does not mind, I would like to add my two cents' worth to her comments about mobile phones. The sight of a young parent pushing a pram containing a very small human across the road while staring at the phone fills me with absolute horror.

Ed

GRUMBLING ABOUT THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR Part 1

New minibus hits the road

Local disability charity **Accuro** is celebrating the arrival of a brand new minibus, made possible thanks to the generous support of three funders: The Cherry Foundation, Stansted Airport Community Fund and The Axis Foundation. The specially adapted vehicle will help more children, young people and adults with a disability across West Essex to enjoy new activities, make friends and build confidence, all in a safe and inclusive environment. The minibus made its maiden journey at the Saffron Walden Eight Day Weekend in July, taking part in the Saturday Procession around the town accompanied by Accuro members, staff and volunteers.



Phoebe Cherry from The Cherry Foundation said: *Accuro do such amazing work in the community, and we are delighted to fund this minibus to support the continuation of their brilliant trips and activities.*

Maggie Sutton, Chair of the Stansted Airport Community Fund, said: *We are absolutely delighted to support Accuro with a £5,000 donation towards their new minibus. It is fantastic to see the difference it will make, helping more people with disabilities across West Essex get out and about, build friendships, and feel part of their community.*

Mick Hayes from The Axis Foundation added: *Really wonderful news to see that Accuro's new minibus is on the road creating great opportunities for disabled people in West Essex. We were pleased and proud to help, and we are looking forward to hearing about the difference it will make.*

For more information about Accuro, or to find out how you can support their work, visit our website or tel 870297.

Sue Fishpool
Fundraising Manager
Tel: 870297
Email: sue@accuro.org.uk

What is wrong with our calendar? Just because most of the world is used to this invention of a 16th century pope does not mean that it is in any way our best option! Think about it; we have 12 months in a year, but, surprise, surprise, 365 is not divisible by 12. Our best option would be to have seven months of 30 days and five months of 31 days, but no! Inexplicably, February is unjustly truncated, except every fourth year when it is not, except every century when it is, except every fourth century when it is not. This is all because we expect a day to nicely divide into a year when there is no reason it should, and that a tropical year will be equivalent to a sidereal year when it is not and never has been. As you can tell, I am not the greatest fan of Pope Gregory's misattributed work.

However, there is no need for it to all be doom and gloom. If we remove just one day from our mostly 365-day calendar, then we can observe that 364 is evenly divisible by 13. If we were to introduce just one more month, then we could have twelve months of 28 days or four weeks exactly – an added bonus, and a conclusive month of 29, to which the leap day could be added. Isn't that so much neater? What is more, it is compatible with the Gregorian calendar, as it has the same number of days, which would allow the transition to be more gradual. I propose that we all adopt this by the end of the year, so as to create a more beautiful and efficient world, free from the tyrannical edict of Pope Gregory. However, there is that pesky leap day ...

Funky Chicken
Aged 12



RECYCLING



Save your holiday coins

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; alternatively please leave items in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens. Thank you.

A reminder that we no longer accept spectacles for recycling; please take them 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 or Townstech in Harlow tel 898240 www.townstech.co.uk. If you have Dell equipment, including monitors, you can recycle directly with them; go to www.dell.com and search for recycling.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059
Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

FULL VISION GOLF DAY

www.fullvision.co.uk

Charity Golf Day

Full Vision, a local signage, graphics and branding specialist, of which I am company director, hosted a charity golf fundraiser in July to raise vital funds for The Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) Charity's Neonatal Unit fund, raising an incredible £74,523. Colleagues from this Neonatal Unit and representatives from PAH Charity attended the event, which received enthusiastic support from the local community. This first fundraising event marked a milestone in Full Vision's five-year journey supporting the hospital charity, formalised last year through an official partnership. The collaboration stemmed from personal experience, following the care provided to my twin daughters, Olivia and Sophia, who were born prematurely and received specialist care in the Neonatal Unit.



The day was a fantastic success, filled with great sportsmanship, generosity, and a shared commitment to giving back. The neonatal team cared for our twins when they needed it most, and we will always be grateful for the compassion and expertise they provided. To see so many people come together on the golf course to support a unit that means so much to us was truly heartwarming. We are proud to help make a difference. The PAH Charity continues to encourage community support for fundraising initiatives like this, which make a real and lasting difference for patients and their families.

Sam Tanner

Tel: 020 3866 4444

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BEEES AND BUGS

This is a busy time of year for honeybees. Even though there are fewer flowers around right now, there is still a lot going on inside the hive. Bees are also working hard to defend the hive from invaders like wasps, so it is helpful that there is not too much traffic coming through the entrance. At this time of year, bees also have to deal with *varroa mites*. When varroa first appeared, bee colonies did not realize how many mites were outside the hive trying to get in and once inside, how quickly they would breed. Worse still, these mites eventually kill their hosts.

It is a bit like the fate suffered by Native Americans; those who welcomed the invaders ended up being destroyed. To get rid of the mites, bees had to take drastic action, similar to when Mugabe devalued land in Zimbabwe to drive out the food producers. The bees had to remove the idea of *ownership* within the hive and shift their behaviour completely. One strategy was to heat up the hive, so the bees could reproduce faster than the mites. It is uncomfortable for everyone, but it has to be done. Bees infected with varroa are banished from the colony for the greater good. These mites are parasites that suck the life juices out of bees. What really causes damage is that they develop *with* the bee larvae. When the bees emerge, they are often deformed.

Interestingly, wild colonies have adapted and are dealing with varroa quite well. However, beekeepers who rely on chemical treatments are now actually part of the problem. Beekeeping never needed big pharmaceutical companies; now that they are involved, they will not let go.

Kevin Hancock

Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

The new season for the first team has started, and after the disappointment of suffering relegation for the first time in the Club's history, we now compete in the Thurlow Nunn South League at Step 6 in the FA National League System. The summer months gave the team management an opportunity to rebuild with all but two of last season's squad kept on. Some experienced players will form the backbone of the team, which will also include some younger players coming up from youth football. Obviously, a whole new squad will take time to show some consistency; there is general excitement around the Club with this crop of young players making their transition to senior football in the coming months.

On the subject of seniors, our Over 45s Veterans welcome a new manager, Michael Grey, who will take over the reins from Andy Thorpe who wishes to get his boots back on and play again. Good luck to both. We look forward to seeing all our supporters back for our first home game this month and as we have reduced our admission prices at all levels for the season, we are hopeful the football you see will be more enjoyable than the last campaign.

Fixtures at Hargrave Park in September:

6 th	Clapton Community	League	3.00pm
13 th	Dunmow Town	League	3.00pm
16 th	Cannons Wood	League	7.45pm
27 th	FC Baresi	League	3.00pm



Tom Williams

Tel: 07921 403842



Stansted Cricket Club

www.stanstedcc.hitscricket.com

After two recent gritty battles against league leaders Thaxted and second-placed Essendon, Stansted's 1st XI fought hard but came away empty-handed. The effort was there, the flashes of potential were there, but the results were not. Still, with four massive fixtures left, the season is far from over.

First up is mid-table Thorley; we have been here before. Last time, Stansted had them reeling at 14-4 early doors, only for some shaky bowling to let them recover to 174/9. The reply? Let us just say the less said about that 77 all out, the better. Revenge is on the menu. Then it is crunch time with must-win clashes against fellow relegation rivals Bishop's Stortford IV and Willingale. These games are golden opportunities to grab points and end the season on a high. The 2nd XI's survival fight is looking like a mountain climb in flip-flops with just one win from 14. Technically, winning every remaining game could save the day, but let us be honest, it is a long shot. Still, with performances like Ryan Cope's gritty 55 not out last weekend alongside the returning Dan Hanna's fireworks, who is to say miracles never happen?

The Big Bash event is coming up on **Saturday 6th September** 6.00pm at the Club. Tickets are £30, available from Matt Cope tel: 07583 106408. Snap them up as there are great prizes to be won and every penny goes straight into supporting the Club's future.

Emiel Pronk
Part-time clubman
Tel: 07429 058203
Email: emiel.pronk@icloud.com



Stansted Tennis Club
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

It has been a busy summer of tennis with Junior Summer camps, Essex Small Clubs league matches and the Club's Summer Tournament taking place. The Summer Tournament is a knockout competition comprising ladies' and men's singles and ladies', men's, and mixed doubles. This culminates on **Saturday 13th September** with Finals Day, from 10.00am. All are welcome to come and watch some great tennis and enjoy some tasty refreshments.

Coaching

Junior and adult group sessions will be starting up again in September. For more details please contact Dan, email: danw.tennis@gmail.com or Phil, email: phil_tennis@outlook.com. Please see 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

STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk



We are sad to say that our president, John Hollis recently passed away following a long period of illness. John will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with his wife Janet and the wider family.

It has been an exciting season for our two North West Essex League (NWEL) mixed teams fighting at different ends of the table. The B team has won Section 2 Division C. They won 8-0 away to Thaxted which meant they finished top with a round of fixtures to spare. On 7th September they will play the winners of Section 1 Division C at a neutral venue, for the overall title. The A team are in Section 2 Division A and tied on points with two other teams with two games to play. One will get relegated; fingers crossed that our team avoid that fate. The seniors' team in the Essex and Herts Seniors League have won eight out of the 12 games played to date. Six more to play and currently sitting in 2nd place in the league. The ladies' section has five more games planned before the end of the season. It is a busy time of the year. Our internal knock out tournaments are progressing with our finals day on **Saturday 6th September**.



Outside the competitive games we have our social bowls on a Friday evening, and you are always welcome to come along. We realise the outside of our Club house does not look very inviting but rest assured you will receive a warm welcome if you poke your head through the door. Our Club house bar is excellent value. For further information about the Club, please contact our secretary Peter Beattie tel 07850 329192 email: peterdavidbeattie@gmail.com.

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

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES or SPECIAL OCCASIONS

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

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