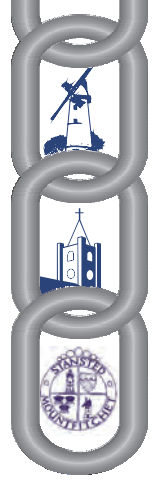


Stansted Mountfitchet

The Link





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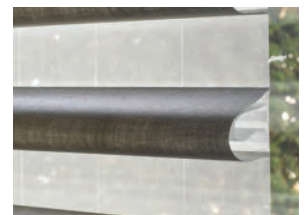
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Front Cover

Ewes and lambs

by Paul Burt Photography

Stansted Mountfitchet Village Magazine

The Link

www.stanstedlink.org.uk

The Link is published by Stansted Mountfitchet Magazine Community Interest Company and delivered free to 3700 homes and businesses in Stansted. Further copies may be purchased for £1 each or £11.00 per year, plus postage. Each edition is also available on our website.

If you do not receive your copy please email: distribution@stanstedlink.org.uk or telephone 813680

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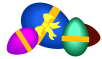
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MAY ISSUE

Please email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk or post to 7 Blythwood Gardens CM24 8HG by noon on **9th Apr.**
Word attachment or typed into an email, max 300 words; landscape photographs **min 250KB** as a separate jpg.
Articles may be subject to editing

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EDITORIAL



Many thanks to Paul Burt for this month's front cover, a lovely gentle picture to celebrate spring and Easter. To tell you a bit more about Paul, he is a professional photographer and we are very lucky to have his expertise enhancing the photos which our readers send to us for the front cover. This may just be resizing them to the correct dimensions, but sometimes the enhancement is more intricate and highly technical. Just occasionally he sends us a picture of his own; the last one was the November 2025 issue, with the stunning firework display. My favourite of his was taken during the Covid lockdown of the windmill at night, bathed in the blue NHS colour and lettering. It was in August 2020 but some of you may remember it.

Easter will be celebrated in many ways, including several church services, which are listed on page 14, and at the windmill over the Easter weekend as described on page 3. Singing is the perfect way to greet spring; see page 7 for details of Stansted Sings Together. Other articles of interest may be the Uttlesford Citizens' Advice item on page 4 which is aimed at anyone who rents their accommodation. Thank you to Stansted Business Forum on page 6 and Stansted Library, see below; we are so glad to hear from you both again. I would also like to thank Tony Wellings for his fascinating article about the Cider Press on page 6. Anyone who walks their dog on the little field opposite the windmill will be familiar with the large stone under one of the trees. It has quite a history and we hope you will enjoy reading about it. A very happy Easter to all our readers, contributors and advertisers.

Ed

STANSTED LIBRARY EVENTS AND FACILITIES



STANSTED SOCIAL CLUB

www.smsc.uk.com

Did you know that there are lots of things going on at the library? Here is a list of those currently already running and one we are planning to run in the near future.

- UCAN Volunteer Charity 1st Thursday of every month
- Baby and Rhyme Time Tuesdays 10.30am-11.00am
- Knit and Natter Tuesdays 11.30am-1.00pm with free tea, coffee and biscuits
- IT Support drop in Thursdays 2.00pm-4.00pm
- Local Author events
- We will be hosting an informal stroke support group which will be a friendly opportunity for people to share their stroke experiences and coping strategies over coffee, tea, cakes and biscuits. Dates and times to be confirmed
- We have children's colouring sheets and a display board for their work
- We have a local information noticeboard, public computers, a scanner plus printing and photocopying facilities
- We welcome prearranged class, nursery, playgroup, Brownie and Cub visits.

Joining the library is easy. You can join online or in person. We just need some photo ID and proof of address. Your library card allows you to borrow up to 14 items over a three-week period, use the audio and eBook Borrow Box apps, sign up to Linked-In courses online, and download and listen to music on the Freegal app. We have an extensive catalogue where you can order books online and have them delivered to us at Stansted. For local history buffs, we have free access to Ancestry and Find My Past. We are a friendly and safe space and we look forward to seeing you soon.



Krishna Mukhoty
Email: stansted.library@essex.gov.uk

I want to start by welcoming back our bar manager Lexi after her maternity leave. She has certainly been missed! The Club held a charity day recently to raise funds for Stanley, who is 11 years old and battling terminal brain cancer. Unfortunately, his consultant has decided to stop treatment as no more can be done for him. We had a children's entertainer, a candy floss machine, glitter tattoos and face painters. There was also a grand raffle followed by the meat raffle and a disco. So far we have raised just over £2,000.

TouchPoint have decided to stop holding the food share event at the Club due to a decrease in people attending. They will still be hosting food share events at other venues. Please check their website www.thetouchpoint.org/the-touchpoint-community-food-share or call 07572 114882 for further details. We are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday 5th April 12.30pm** for members' children. There will be lots of eggs and perhaps the Easter Bunny. Members need to put their children's names down in the Club so we know how many to expect.

As always, we have a packed entertainment programme for April. We start on **Friday 3rd** with *33 RPM* making a welcome return, followed on **Saturday 4th** by *The Bowie Experience*. On **Saturday 11th** we have *The Jersey Boys West End show*. Dean Richardson returns as *Freddie Mercury* on **Saturday 18th**. We welcome back Martin from *Cloud 9* for Karaoke on **Friday 24th** and round off April on **Saturday 25th** with *Toot 'N' Skamen* with their fantastic Ska covers. The above events are free to members and £10 for non-members. Finally, do not forget the world-famous meat raffle at 3.00pm on Sunday afternoons.



Andrew Sharpe
Tel: 812992
Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET WINDMILL

www.stanstedwindmill.co.uk

Hopefully you are reading this a few days before the Easter weekend so it is a good opportunity for us to remind you about what is happening that weekend. The mill will be open to visitors on **Easter Sunday and Monday 5th and 6th April** 1.30pm-5.30pm. Tickets: adults £3.00, children £1.00. An additional attraction on both days is the children's Easter Egg Hunt and Face Painting for a minimum donation of £1.00. You can pay with cash, credit card, or debit card.

This will be your first opportunity this year to purchase mill merchandise. In the last edition of The Link we told you about Dusty the teddy bear who is the latest edition to our range of merchandise. Dusty is a nickname that is often given to Millers for fairly obvious reasons; in fact his real name is Max.



Both Max and Molly will be available to purchase for £5.50 each or you can have both of them for £10.00. In addition to Max and Molly you can buy a Stansted Windmill polo shirt, sweatshirt, tea towel, pen, pencil, notepad and badge, all at very competitive prices. If you have not been inside the mill before or maybe not for a while, this is the ideal weekend to explore Stansted's iconic landmark. If you have guests, it will make their visit to Stansted even more memorable by climbing to the top.

Trevor Lloyd
Tel: 07739428352

Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk

LOCAL BUS TIMES

www.stephensonsofsex.com

The **301** leaves Clarence Road at 9 minutes past each hour from 7.09am until 10.09pm.

Return journey leaves Riverside at 30 minutes past each hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm.

The **7/7A** leaves the top of Chapel Hill at 7.42am, 9.24am(A), 9.55am, 10.55am(A), 12.10pm, 1.20pm(A), 2.25pm, 3.15pm(A), 4.40pm, 5.40pm(A) and 6.55pm.

Return journey leaves Riverside at 6.02am, 6.33am, 8.18am, 9.03am(A), 10.32am, 11.32am(A), 12.47pm, 1.32pm(A), 3.03pm, 3.53pm(A), 5.18pm, 6.17pm(A) and 7.32pm.

Both services are operated by Stephenson's.

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET EVENING WI



For our February meeting we welcomed Amanda Sutherland who is a costume designer. She worked as a buyer for the Royal Opera House as her first job and went on to work with various designers. She started her own business when moving to Suffolk and also had a stall at the All Saints Garden Art and Craft Market in Cambridge, creating her own designs of hats, ladies' cravats and scarves, wrist warmers and jewellery using leaves and coke cans! There were lots of incredible items for sale and many were bought. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 9th April** at 7.30pm in TouchPoint. The speaker is Sarah Harrison who is telling us *You Couldn't Make It Up*. The competition is a decorated egg. We welcome visitors and new members so please come and join us.

Linda Gurr
Tel: 07743 549241



FUN PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

We are usually open every **Friday morning, including school holidays** from 9.15am-11.30am in the Free Church Hall, but please note that we will be closed on **Good Friday 3rd April**. Parents, grandparents, children and all ages drop in to this popular meeting place, and everyone is welcome. Adults relax and chat with a hot drink and the children enjoy playing with the toys. They have plenty of space to run around and enthusiastically join in the sing-a-long at 10.30am.



Free squash and healthy snacks are available for children, and tea or coffee and biscuits for the adults. There is limited free parking in the church car park. We look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings.



Sue Parker and Fran Richards
Tel: 657116

Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



RSPB

group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

On **Wednesday 8th April** at 10.00am we have a five-mile midweek walk from The Axe and Compasses, Braughing SG11 2QR. This is a route which heads north and follows a mix of tracks and lanes taking in many high points with good views of the surrounding countryside.

Our monthly meeting is on **Tuesday 14th April** at 7.30pm in Bishop's Park Community Centre, Lancaster Way, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4DA. We welcome Sarah Harris who will be presenting *A Life of Bird Monitoring*. Our incredible scientific knowledge of birds is founded in monitoring, surveying and recording birds, with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) being at the forefront of this knowledge. Sarah has worked extensively for the BTO and her presentation features places where she has worked during her career and focuses on the birds she has studied. As the honorary secretary of the Rye Meads Ringing Group committee, she has a strong local connection.



On **Sunday 26th April** at 10.00am we are visiting Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, Little Paxton PE19 6ET, see photo above. The reserve has a rich mosaic of wildlife habitats, with beautiful lakes, riverside, meadow, reedbed, scrub and woodland. It is famous for its nightingales and cormorants but is also host to a wide variety of other birds, insects, mammals and flora. For full details of all our activities, please see our website or contact me.

Peter Allen

Tel: 07876 295456

Email: peter2349@sky.com



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.stmarysstansted.co.uk

As we head into the Easter break, I wanted to share some of the fun things we have done at school this term. Starting with our little ones, we held a *back to school for a bedtime story event*, whereupon our Acorns came back to school at teatime in pyjamas and dressing gowns, explored the school by torchlight, had a drink of hot chocolate and enjoyed a snuggly bed time story. Our Key stage 1 children have been learning about their personal chronological history, ordering photos from baby to present day, and grandparents have visited to share stories about their childhood and answer many questions! Thank you to all who came.

Lower Key stage 2 (LKS2) explored sewing, excelling in cross stitch and running stitch. The end results were turned into mini works of art or cards. The three teachers in LKS2 will not be repeating this activity. For our year 5 and 6s a stand-out event was our Tudor dress-up day. In the morning the children visited various market stalls demonstrating Tudor crafts such as candle making, weaving and apothecary. The afternoon session was a huge banquet with Tudor foods plus drink in iron goblets. The children were split into groups such as Top Table, jesters, servers, singers and the popular play of George and the Dragon was performed. Wishing everyone a Happy Easter and a peaceful break.

Kara Power

Acting Headteacher

Tel: 812212



Citizens Advice
the charity for your community

www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Housing update: rental reform 2026

From 1st May, new rules for renters in England are coming into force. These changes, brought in through the Renters' Rights Act, affect anyone letting or renting a home and aim to stop unfair evictions, limit rent increases, and give tenants more protection and support.

Some of the key changes:

- Instead of renting for a fixed period like 6 or 12 months, tenancies will continue without an end date, giving tenants more security while still allowing them to leave with notice if they wish
- Landlords cannot evict without a reason
- Rent can only go up once a year, and you can challenge increases
- Rules stop large upfront payments and unfair bidding for homes
- Stronger protection against discrimination
- New ways to complain and get help, including an independent ombudsman.

Tip: Keep a copy of your tenancy agreement, as it may be useful if any problems arise with your landlord.

Need help?

Uttlesford Citizens Advice is here if you need free, confidential guidance on housing, money, benefits or work issues. You can speak to one of our friendly advisers on the number below, or come to our free drop-in service at the Mountfitchet Exchange every **Thursday 9.30am-3.00pm**, except when Peabody operate advice sessions, which is on the second Thursday in the month. You can also contact an advisor via the computer link up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the Parish Council or Library staff will help you if you are not familiar with computers.

Leah Clohesy

Office Manager

Tel: 01799 618840

Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

7.30 pm Thu 2nd Apr
Touchpoint

Navigation on the River Stort
by **Tim Howard-Smith**

Annual membership £15
New members and guests for the
evening welcome Entry £3



Stansted Millers

Windmill Easter Openings
Come and have a look round

1.30 - 5.30 pm
Easter Sun 5th Apr
Bank Holiday Mon 6th Apr
Easter Egg Hunt for Children
(minimum donation £1)
Refreshments

Entry: adults £3, child £1

STANSTED IS WELL READ

8 pm Tue 7th Apr
Dog and Duck, Lower Street

At Risk
by **Stella Rimington**

Described by *The Independent* as a
nerve-shredding drama packed with
edge-of-the-seat cliffhangers
this is the debut novel written by the
former boss of MI5

All Welcome Tel 813056

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

2	Thu	Local History Society	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
5 Sun/6 Mon		Windmill open	1.30 - 5.30 pm
5 Sun/6 Mon		Easter Egg Hunt	Windmill 1.30 - 4.30 pm
7	Tue	Stansted is Well Read	Dog and Duck 8 pm
9	Thu	Link copy due in today	before noon
		W I	Touchpoint 7.30 pm
12	Sun	Open Day	Easton Lodge 11 am - 5 pm
12 & 26	Sun	Skips	Lower St Car Park 1 - 5 pm
14	Tue	The Arts Society BS RSPB	Southmill Arts 10.40 am Bishop's Park Comm Cntr 7.30 pm
15	Wed	Ugley W I Newport Flower Club	Ugley Village Hall 2 pm Ugley Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
16	Thu	U3A Monthly Meeting	St Theresa's Parish Centre 2 pm
17	Fri	Quiz Night	Bowls Club 7 for 7.30 pm
18	Sat	Ugley Farmers' Market	Ugley Village Hall 10 am - noon
25	Sat	Elsenham Farmers' Market	Village Hall 12.30 - 2.30 pm
26	Sun	Open Day	Stansted Hall Cricket Club 3 - 5 pm



Stansted Evening W I

7.30 pm Thu 9th Apr
Touchpoint

You couldn't make it up
by Sarah Harrison

Visitors Welcome Entry £3

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE OPEN DAY

11 am - 5 pm Sun 12th Apr
Last entry 4 pm

White Dragon Archery
Climb into the Treehouse
Music by Karen and Tony
Entry £7.50 on gate, £6 advance
Refreshments available all day
All Welcome Tel: 01371 876979

To advertise your local event free of charge on this page
in the next issue *subject to space*

Email: editor@stanstedlink.org.uk by 9th April



www.ugleyvillage.org.uk

10 am - noon
Sat 18th Apr
Ugley Village Hall

Eggs ~ Olive Oil
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



Stansted Hall & Elsenham Cricket Club Open Day

3 - 5 pm Sun 26th Apr

*Come and have a look around our
beautiful grounds
followed by light refreshments*

Weather permitting there will be a
match in progress

Everyone welcome - no charge
Tel David on 07788 999663



Green Waste Skip Dates

Sundays 1 - 5 pm

Note new times

12th & 26th Apr

10th & 24th May

Lower Street Car Park



Ugley W I

2 pm Wed 15th Apr
Ugley Village Hall

*Tales of my
Sri Lankan childhood*
by Sue Martineau

Visitors Welcome
Plenty of free parking



Monthly Meeting

7.30 pm Tue 14th Apr
Bishop's Park Community Centre CM23 4DA

Sarah Harris
*Surveying and recording birds with
the British Trust for Ornithology*

Visitors welcome, entry £5
Tel: Peter 07876 295456
www.group.rspb.org.uk/stortvalley

THE ARTS SOCIETY BISHOP'S STORTFORD

10.40 am Tue 14th Apr
South Mill Arts

Dr Susan Kay-Williams
*150 years of the
Royal School of Needlework*

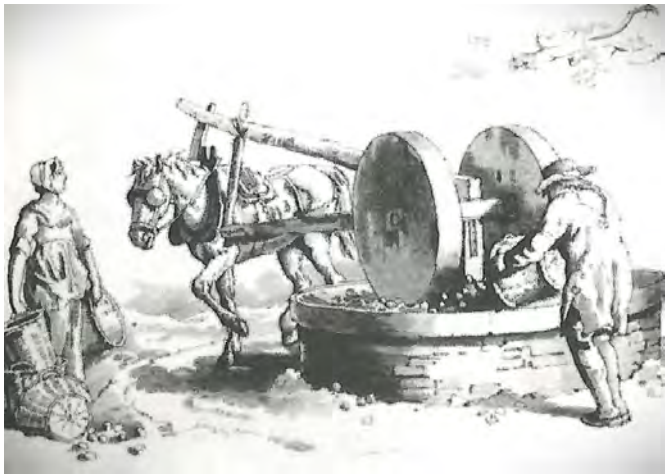
Guests welcome Entry £7. Coffee 10 am
Tel 656065 for more information

CIDER PRESS

Many of you will have seen the large round stone lying under a tree in the little field across from the windmill. This stone appeared quite a few years ago when builders were clearing the ground behind Western House in Cambridge Road. When I first saw it I thought that it was a millstone and as the builders were going to dump it, I asked them to put it near the windmill, which they were happy to do.



On closer inspection it turned out not to be a millstone but more likely to have been the runner stone which was driven round in a trough in an apple press. The attached picture shows an example of such a machine.



There were orchards locally so it looks as if cider was brewed in Stansted as well as beer.

Tony Wellings
Email: tonywellings@btinternet.com

RANDOM JOTTINGS

Latest victim of shoplifting gangs

Brussels sprouts are the latest item of food to be placed in secure plastic boxes on supermarket shelves. The recent, extreme weather conditions, resulting in scarcity of the vegetables, have caused a considerable price rise. This has prompted an unprecedented high number of thefts of the humble sprout. Reports that the thefts are connected to organised crime are yet to be confirmed.

Avril Tromper

POT LUCK QUIZ 3

1. Which sign of the Zodiac has the shortest name?
2. What is the English name for the painting the French call *La Joconde*?
3. Which food is nicknamed Welsh caviar?
4. Which is the largest lake in Italy?
5. What animal is depicted on a tin of Colman's Mustard?
6. Which chemical element has the symbol Pu?
7. Which lizard's name comes from the Greek for *Lion on the ground*?
8. How many men were on the Ark?
9. Which 60's group had a hit with *Save the last dance for me*?
10. Which historical British mission station was the setting for the film *Zulu*?

Dave Morson

Answers on page 30



www.stanstedbusinessforum.com

Our March meeting was an action-packed and informative session. We heard from Maureen Caton, Chair of Stansted Parish Council about the proposed increases of 23% to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) car parking charges. Maureen also talked about the UDC Local Plan, including the modifications requested by the Planning Inspectorate which are being reviewed for agreement to adopt this Spring. The Stansted Neighbourhood Plan is being finalised to be ready for consultation in June. County elections are in May. Also discussed was the review of the Emergency Plan which includes flooding.

We then had a presentation from Hannah Short, Senior Planning Manager with City & Country regarding the planning application for proposed developments at Stansted and Birchanger. This was followed by an informative update on the impact on businesses from the Employment Rights Act 2025 which comes into effect in April 2026.

The Stansted Business Forum is your one-stop shop for business and community intel. Attending our meetings and joining our email list and WhatsApp group enables you to keep up to date with matters affecting your business, and to be first to know about business opportunities and support as well as grants within the local area. For more information or to book a visit to one of our popular breakfast networking meetings please see our website or email our secretary Steve Greenall on hello@stanstedbusinessforum.com.



Iris Evans
Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET
LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

www.standedhistorysociety.org.uk

Spring is in the air and I cannot wait to get singing with you again. No matter the challenges and the struggles across the world at present, let us *Sing in the Spring!* Previous sessions have inspired TouchPoint to launch *The TouchPoint Community Singers*. Standed Sings Together will run three sessions this year in April, September and November. The first of these is on **Saturdays 18th and 25th April, 2nd and 9th May** 3.30pm-5.30pm at TouchPoint, with *Informance* (an informal performance) for friends and family on **9th May** 6.00pm-7.00pm. There is no charge although donations to TouchPoint are welcome.



Last year's choir clearly enjoying themselves

As always, we want this to be a safe space where everyone is welcome to come and join in the singing, have a cuppa and snack and get to know local people you might not otherwise have a chance to meet. Children 12 years and under are welcome with an accompanying adult. TouchPoint is fully accessible and singers are encouraged to be comfortable either sitting or standing. You do not need to read music as we will learn aurally, from PowerPoint projections, lyric sheets or musical scores, to suit individual preferences. The main purpose of the event is to connect, support each other and celebrate the beautiful community we become. Those who have sung previously should have received an email from me with further details; if you have not received it, please get in touch. If you have not been before and would like to know more, please email me. I look forward to seeing you.

Jane Wheeler
Email: janievox@mac.com

STANSTED IS WELL READ

The next meeting of our book club will be on Tuesday 7th April at 8.00pm in The Dog and Duck, where we will be discussing last month's book choice *At Risk* by Stella Rimington. Described by The Independent as a nerve-shredding drama packed with edge-of-the-seat cliffhangers, this is the debut novel written by the former boss of MI5. Please do get in touch if you would like to join us. A warm welcome awaits.



Diana Griffin
Tel: 813056
Email: stanstediswellread@gmail.com

Douglas Coe was the speaker for our March meeting; he gave a very interesting talk on *Sawbridgeworth in World War II*. Before the war, Sawbridgeworth was a rather sleepy small market town with a population of less than 3000 people, and they experienced the war on the home front rather than directly. Like many English towns, everyday life changed significantly. Children from the heavily bombed areas of London were evacuated to this more rural area. Surprisingly, the residents of Sawbridgeworth were somewhat reluctant to welcome them into their homes and begrudged paying a small increase in the rates to facilitate this.

Nearby airfields supported aircraft in bombing missions, and a local factory manufactured various fuselage and other structural components for the Mosquito fighter bomber. Like all areas of the UK, blackout regulations were enforced and this led to several accidents and occasional deaths on local roads. A Home Guard was formed together with Air Raid Precaution (ARP) Wardens and Fire watchers; fortunately there was little bomb damage to the town. However there was strict rationing of food and clothing. There are a few war memorials in the town, such as the Memorial Hall which was dedicated to the people of the town who served in the wars. Inside St Mary's Church there is a memorial with the names of the soldiers who lost their lives; this is where wreath laying still takes place, as well as at RAF Sawbridgeworth Airfield Memorial.



St Mary's Memorial

Our thanks to Douglas for a most interesting talk. Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd April** at 7.30pm in Touchpoint when Tim Howard-Smith will present *Naviga-tion on the River Stort*.

Edward Taub
Email: taub8jr@icloud.com



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SWIFT BOXES

Giving swifts a home in Stansted

A huge thank you to people across the village who responded to our request for sites to install swift boxes. We have provided over 50 new nesting sites in Stansted to help boost our local swift population. Members of our local Fire and Rescue service were among the respondents and generously paid for two boxes, now in place at the Stansted Fire Station.

Special thanks also to Magna Carta Primary Academy who agreed to host an impressive 14 boxes with the support of a grant from the Essex Local Nature Recovery Fund.



Swifts are a lovely and common sight in Stansted over the summer months. However, numbers have declined dramatically, and they are now considered an endangered species. For every ten swifts zooming across our skies in 1995, there were only three by 2022. Part of the problem is a lack of nesting sites in the eaves of houses, caused by modern building practices.

This project was delivered in partnership with the incredibly dedicated North-East Hertfordshire Swift Group. We hope to keep working together, including to support the children at Magna Carta to learn about these wonderful birds and the wider importance of conservation.

Now we just have to wait patiently for the birds to arrive. Swifts undertake an amazing journey, migrating to the UK from Africa each year. They normally arrive in late April to raise their young, which is the only time they ever stop flying! However, it may take more than a year or two for the boxes to be occupied.

Emma Thomas and Vicki Anderson
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THE PLACE ON THE HILL

www.stanstedfreechurch.org.uk

Spring is definitely here and the evenings are lighter; maybe the rain will even stop! We invite you to join us at *The Place on the Hill* for free coffee, cakes and biscuits. We have lovely comfy seats and 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



www.tasbs.org.uk

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Society's lectures. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday 14th April** at 10.40am in South Mill Arts (SMA) with coffee available from 10.00am. Our speaker is Dr Susan Kay-Williams who will be talking about *150 years of the Royal School of Needlework*. The school was founded to keep hand embroidery alive and to offer a suitable occupation for educated women who would otherwise be destitute; it celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2022. Susan goes behind the scenes to tell of the school's changing fortunes including a variety of commissions for wedding dresses, a connection to the Special Air Service (SAS) and in its 151st year working on pieces for the Coronation.



Come and be entertained, amazed and enlightened. Visitors are very welcome for which we invite a donation of £7. If coming by car please register your car number with SMA reception. See our website for further information. Our Facebook page is Arts Society Bishop's Stortford. Our Membership Secretary, Sue Chapman, can be contacted by email: info@tasbs.org.uk or tel: 508542.

Michael Fitch



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STORKS IN MYTH AND ART

Those of you who have travelled to the Netherlands or Germany, for example, may have seen large and numerous stork nests on top of chimney pots. The nests belong to the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*). Nesting storks symbolised good luck and impending childbirth in European countries, and they represent the soul in Egypt. The stork is believed to be faithful to its mate with doting parenting skills, hence the idea of storks delivering newborn human babies. The red marks often found on babies' bodies are supposed to arise from where the stork held them.



Duck Doodles has sent us her lovely artwork of a stork carrying a baby; many thanks to her. It is so good to have our own special, talented young artist!

Ed



STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET u3a

www.stansted.u3asite.uk

Had he lived, Freddie Mercury would be in his 70s. Many in the u3a are his contemporaries and this was demonstrated when Danielle Barnett began her presentation, *Freddie's Kind of Magic*, with a recording of him singing. Joy crept into the room and radiated through the sizeable audience, until everyone was clapping along to the stirring sounds of Queen. Danielle, a super enthusiastic presenter, supplied a review of a life that produced an iconic soundtrack for the late 20th century.

Another large audience sat entranced by the expertise of Dr Helen Fry, who gave a talk on the incredible intelligence work that took place under the leadership of MI6 Colonel Thomas Kendrick during WWII. Helen's historical research uncovered the fascinating work carried out at Trent Park, Wilton and Latimer House, where German military elite prisoners were held. They were treated extremely well, little knowing that the walls surrounding them had ears and they were being bugged continually. Deep below them, their conversations were listened to closely and the vital military information gleaned from their conversations substantially affected the war effort.

Yet more interesting talks are in store at the u3a; these will include: *Wildlife of Britain and Europe* by photographers Graham and Mary Brace, and Mike Dodsworth on *The Witches of Essex*. The treats at every monthly meeting can be seen on the u3a website. The website also presents information about the 40 different activities available through the u3a. For example, the gardening group, in April, will be visiting the gardens of Benington Lordship, an ancient private home with wonderful landscaping and an impressive diversity of plants. For more information visit our website or tel: 07847 385541.

Julia Cook



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www.birchanger.essex.sch.uk

After two years of dedication and commitment, we have been awarded the prestigious Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Gold Award in recognition of our commitment to transforming play and outdoor learning. Working in partnership with OPAL Community Interest Company, founded by Michael Follett, the school has placed high-quality, inclusive play at the heart of the school day. A key part of this transformation was the introduction of an activewear uniform two years ago, a move designed to support children's mental health, better meet the sensory needs of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, and encourage greater physical activity for all.



Playtimes are now a vibrant hub of activity and imagination. Children can be seen listening to music, popping bubbles, experimenting with water or digging in the sandpit, whizzing around on bikes and pushchairs, or getting creative in the school's much-loved creative cabin. Staff say the changes have led to children who are more active, more engaged and increasingly enthusiastic about coming to school. The achievement was formally presented by the school's long-standing mentor, Nicola Barrett, who has been invaluable in the school's journey to the gold award.

Sharon Vessey
Headteacher
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Grove Cottage's new home is ready

We are delighted to share some wonderful news; we now have the keys to our new building at 151 London Road. This exciting milestone comes as we approach a very special moment, with March 2026 marking 60 years since Grove Cottage was founded.



Grove Cottage in 1974, showing the first extension

Our Nursery reopened on **2nd March** and we look forward to welcoming all our members and their families into our modern, safe and accessible space over the coming months.



The new Grove Cottage, photo by Vikki Lince

It costs Grove Cottage nearly £600,000 every year to run our vital services and 75% of this needs to be raised through our fundraising activities. Please consider making a donation to help us continue supporting people with learning disabilities and complex additional needs. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Sarah Smith
Communications Officer
Tel: 656085
Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org

AUBREY BUXTON NATURE RESERVE

www.essexwt.org.uk/nature-reserves/aubrey-buxton

Last month we planted some trees that we have been growing in our tree nursery. The planting was made easier by the soft ground conditions after all the recent rain. The reserve has a wide variety of tree species, thanks to its origins as a private wildlife park created by Lord and Lady Buxton. We have planted out cherry, oak, hawthorn and field maple.

We planted cherry to replace the mature trees that are now dying out. Cherry trees are relatively short-lived and ours are all reaching their end of life at a similar time. By helping to replace them we will ensure a future for all the insects that rely on them, including the bird cherry ermine moth, possibly our most numerous moth in the reserve. We have planted hawthorn to maintain our hedges and to provide winter berries. A new small stand of field maple has been created; this is a tree not currently well represented in the wood. Field maple is a frequently overlooked tree species but it is a good addition to a mixed woodland. Apparently, it has wood with a good density that provides excellent resonance, making it ideal for making musical instruments such as harps, or for making intricate wood carvings.

John Welham
Warden

Email: communications@essexwt.org.uk



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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



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A few days ago I received a card through my letter box entitled *Easter Revision*, offering expert guidance to students for exam success. The title prompted me to think about how all Christian faith traditions regard the Easter events. Easter traditionally recalls the narrative of the handing over of Jesus to the authorities, his trial and punishment by them, his crucifixion on Good Friday, followed by his burial. For his disciples and followers, these traumatic events seemed to end all the hope he had given them for a new way of living based on love and forgiveness; many of them hid together, afraid of being found and punished by the authorities. On Easter morning some of the women went to the Garden where he had been buried to anoint his body, only to discover that the tomb was empty. Later that day some spoke of seeing Jesus risen from the dead and walking among them. Whatever your personal beliefs about Jesus rising from the dead, what seems indisputable is that frightened, grieving people were somehow transformed into *Easter People* with hope and courage. They were enabled to *revision* the events of that Easter period, and learn that endings could also be beginnings.

Quakers have an Advice which asks: *Are you open to new light, from whatever source it might come?* reminding us that spiritual learning and personal faith continue throughout life, often in unexpected ways. We are all encouraged to keep alert to new ways of looking and understanding our lived experiences, be they sorrowful or joyful. Sometimes it helps to have an expert to guide us, but we can usually find the truth or the answer within ourselves when we open ourselves to the possibility of *revisioning*. Every blessing in your Easter Revision

Heather Kent
Stansted Friends



EASTER SERVICES



STANSTED FREE CHURCH

Palm Sunday 29th March

10.30am Mike Dyer

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Karen Quelch - Reflective Service

Easter Sunday 5th April

10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion

STANSTED QUAKERS

Palm Sunday 29th March

10.30am Meeting

Easter Sunday 5th April

10.30am Meeting

ST JOHN'S

Palm Sunday 29th March

9.30am Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

6.00pm Holy Communion followed by bring and share meal

Good Friday 3rd April

10.00am *The Way of the Cross*. A choral service of words and music

Holy Saturday 4th April

6.00pm St Mary's Farnham. Easter Vigil and First Communion of Easter

Easter Sunday 5th April

9.30am *Together at Easter* A service for every generation with toys for little ones and craft activities for children and Holy Communion for all

ST THERESE OF LISIEUX

Palm Saturday 28th March

5.15pm Confessions, 6.00pm Mass

Palm Sunday 29th March

8.30am and 10.00am Sunday Mass

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

7.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 3rd April

10.30am Stations of the Cross for Children and Families

3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Saturday 4th April

9.00am Morning Prayer followed by confessions

7.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil Mass in the Holy Night

Easter Sunday 5th April

8.30am and 10.00am Mass of Easter Day





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 April

3rd 10.30am Karen Quelch - Good Friday
 5th 10.30am Rev'd Stuart Veitch - Easter Communion
 12th 10.30am Rev'd Gill Hulme - New Directions
 19th 10.30am Len Ward
 26th 10.30am Worship Leaders

Lent and Easter

During Lent, along with many other churches, a bare wooden full-size cross is displayed in the church, and each Sunday one or two items associated with the Easter story are laid on and around the cross: coins, stones, bowl and towel, sponge, cup, whip, hammer, nails, palm branch, coloured linen cloth, spear and crown of thorns.

Then on Easter Sunday, the items are removed and the cross is decorated with brightly coloured flowers as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.

Marion Dyer



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 Mobile: 07880 602717
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Director of Music: Anne Brooks
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STANSTED QUAKERS

Quaker Meeting House, 71 Chapel Hill
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www.stansted.quakermeeting.org

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

Funeral

6th February John Marcus Colin Elliott, age 64.
 Service at St John's, burial at St Mary's,
 Farnham

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THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Horses were once very important in everyday life. However, this changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car. Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts, buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float, the coalman or the rag-and-bone man.

There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages. We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weathervanes, tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care.

Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley. Dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.

The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes, a name which probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a shoe.



Much Hadham Forge, pictured above, is still in use as part of Much Hadham Forge Museum. The museum usually opens Friday-Sunday, April-December, 11.00am-5.00pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days.

Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April-October, 2.00pm-5.00pm on Sundays and bank holidays; it is well worth a visit.



Ken McDonald
Tel: 813226

BEEKEEPING

The honeybees are busy again, and I even spotted the first bumblebees of the season; always a lovely sign that spring is waking up. However, insect numbers are still low after such a long winter. We will see in the coming weeks how well our hibernators have fared. This month, I want to talk about honey.



Many of you ask whether local honey helps with hay fever. Taking small amounts of local, raw honey throughout the year can help, because it contains traces of the pollens in your area. Honey from your own surroundings makes all the difference. Not all honey is equal. Natural honey means:

- Never any chemical treatments
- No sugar feeding
- No pollen substitutes
- Clean wax, ideally made by the bees themselves
- Bees raise their own queens.

That is it, bees being bees.

You will see *organic* honey on shop shelves. Certification exists in the UK, but it is based on mapped forage areas and risk assessments, not on absolute environmental purity. Bees forage for miles in every direction, and in our modern landscapes, true isolation is almost impossible.

Shop honey is a different story. Independent testing by the Honey Authenticity Network found that over 90% of honey samples bought from UK retailers failed new authenticity tests, suggesting widespread adulteration or blending. Many supermarket jars are processed blends from multiple countries and may not even be real honey.

Principles matter more than labels, in my opinion. It is not a good idea to put any more chemicals in your body than you absolutely have to. Buy from your local beekeeping club, support your bees, and enjoy honey the way nature intended. It is good for you, and for the bees.

Kevin Hancock
Email: thebigflyin@gmail.com





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IN THE GARDEN

Blind bulbs and other jobs to do!

At the time of writing, I am out in the garden properly for the first time this year as the weather is dry and deliciously warm. There is a pile of jobs to do, some of which I thought worth a mention. I had a few clumps of daffodils that have swelled to the point of going blind, this means that the original bulb has divided and multiplied to such an extent that there are mostly leaves and just one or two flowers. The solution is to lift and divide them. If you are patient you can replant them all and eventually they will all flower again; feeding with tomato food will help. Otherwise just replant the bulbs that still have flowers.



Another job spotted was the need to lift *Heucheras* and replanting them deeper. Over a period of time their stems grow taller with a clump of leaves perched on the top. You can snap off the offending stem at soil level and replant the whole stem in the ground so the leaves are level with the top of the soil, making a whole new plant. After a few years *Heucheras* grow several stems which are very easy to lift, divide and replant, turning your original single plant into several. You should also have cut back all plants you left up for winter interest, such as *Hylotelephium* (or *Sedums*), *Rudbeckia* and *Miscanthus* grasses, along with any shrubs that have outgrown their space; spring flowering shrubs should be cut back after they have flowered.

Anthea Harrison
Email: anthea@antheaharrison.co.uk

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www.eastonlodge.co.uk

I wonder how many of you visited the Victoria and Albert Museum and spotted the Countess of Warwick in the Marie Antionette Style exhibition? She was dressed as Marie Antionette at her Warwick Castle Bal Poudre in February 1895. Once the gardens open at the beginning of April, you can visit our information room where you can find out how the ball resulted in the countess becoming a socialist. The ball was described by the local press as *unmistakably the*

most splendidly organised and artistically perfect function of the kind that has been given during the present century.



After the snowdrop season in February, there is always lots of work to be done at the gardens. It is a time to finish pruning the apple and pear trees, the roses and the soft fruit; there are also winter infrastructure jobs, such as rebuilding compost bins and starting the war on the garlicky alliums as well as sowing the first wildflower and vegetable seeds. On lovely sunny spring days such work is a joy. The daffodils come out and the first of the blossom appears and with it the bumblebees.

When the gates re-open for the first Open Thursday of the season, on **2nd April** 11.00am to 3.00pm, the gardens will be tidy and a glorious tableau of lush greens and spring flowers. Entry: adults £5.50, children free. For our monthly Open Day on **Sunday 12th April** 11.00am to 5.00pm, the cherry trees in the walled kitchen garden will be covered in blossom and the apple and pear trees coming into flower. There will be tulips and maybe the first roses. Entry: £6 in advance, £7.50 on the day, children free. There will be have-a-go archery with White Dragon Archery, as well as blossom activities for children and the opportunity to climb into the treehouse and find the Countess' favourite animals. Local musicians Karen and Tony will be playing a wide range of songs. Cheese, hummus, bacon and sausage rolls, homemade cakes, and hot and cold drink are available. For more information please see our website.

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Stansted Network

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILS



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council (SMPC)

In our April pages we update you on improvements at Manor Road flats, how approval of a solar farm could have planning significance for Stansted, as well as news on this year's litter pick, and an agreement to pay for the upkeep of a trio of defibrillators

Meeting held on Manor Road flats

Uttlesford bring repair project in-house

In February, the Chair of the Parish Council met with officials from Uttlesford District Council to discuss concerns about ongoing maintenance work at the Manor Road flats. The Saff on Walden Weekly reported that Uttlesford had decided to bring its property maintenance services in-house. This came after a contractor appointed by the council to address poor conditions at Manor Road withdrew from the project— for a second time on this project.

At the meeting with Cllr Maureen Caton were District Councillors Geoffrey Sell and Ray Gooding. Aending from the District Council were chief executive Peter Holt and Brian Burton (interim director of property). They gave several assurances:

- The project timetable will remain on track
- Replacement contractors have been appointed
- The district council will manage the contractors directly
- Internal and external works will be completed at the same time.

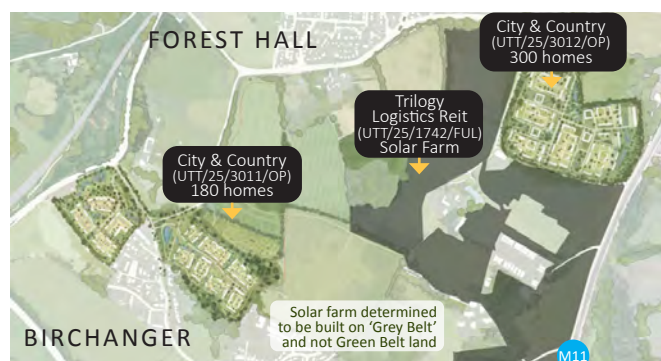
The officials from Uttlesford explained that a perceived lack of transparency was partly as confidence was needed while talks were ongoing. They also needed to delay wider communication until district councillors were briefed.

This was the second such meeting in six months, as the Parish Council continues to press for improvements on behalf of residents. Poor conditions at the flats include extensive damp, faulty electrics, a leaking roof and unsafe balconies. Cllr Caton said: "We intend to monitor this situation closely and challenge again if necessary."



Planning Update

What is the significance of planning approval for a solar farm?



What's the difference between grey belt and green belt? In planning terms and in relation to Stansted, roughly 500 houses and 30 hectares of solar panels. That's because in January Uttlesford District Council's planning committee approved a solar farm near the airport. In doing so planning officers judged the land to be grey belt as it does not fundamentally:

- Prevent urban sprawl
- Stop towns from merging
- Preserve historic setting

While SMPC was disappointed with the approval of this planning application we are hopeful it will carry no wider significance even though City & Country plans to build homes south of Forest Hall Road and near to Birchanger.

In the SMPC's formal objection to City and Country's application we state: "The Green Belt's core role in Uttlesford has been to maintain the historic settlement pattern and prevent the encroachment of unsuitable development into open countryside, in particular around Bishop's Stortford, Stansted Mountfitchet and Stansted Airport." We trust planning officers find the argument persuasive. These words are from Uttlesford's own review of its Metropolitan Green Belt land in 2016.

Backtracking on country park

SMPC also has concerns with another planning application currently being considered by Uttlesford. This is Bloor



Homes' "land north of the Walpole Meadows" project. Our original support for this proposal (UTT/25/0534/OP) had been conditional on a package of community benefits. Among them the inclusion of a 12-acre country park. Think visitor centre, station, car parks, toilets, and a place to draw in people from outside area. Bloor now proposes a simpler public parkland with no such amenities and benefits. SMPC believes this change stems from a misreading of the Planning Inspectorate's comments on the original Uttlesford Local Plan. In fact, contrary to the developer's view, the Inspectors did not view a community park as unnecessary.

Mitigation misunderstood

The National Trust and Natural England requested contributions be made as mitigation for the impact of Walpole Meadows 2 on Hatfield Forest. By agreeing to this Bloor says it has compensated for the loss of a country park. Furthermore, they say doing both would make the project unviable. But District Council planning officers agree with SMPC that a country park is needed and should be reinstated. Also both the National Trust and Natural England never saw it as a case of either/or — they recommended contributions and the creation of a park. Uttlesford's Planning Committee have yet to decide on Bloor's revised scheme.

Potholes to be fixed

County Councillor updates on locations of repairs

We have a slither of good news on the sorry state of Stansted's carriageways. County Councillor Ray Gooding has informed the Parish Council that a highways team will be fixing road surfaces at seven locations in the village. The exact locations of these spots can be identified using What3Words — an online mapping tool increasingly used by official bodies to allow the public to report the locations of problems. There is currently no timeline for when these repairs will be carried out. Repairs will be made at:

- Silver Street — drain cover surround
splashes.accent.zoomed
- Bentfield Road — potholes
peroxide.invents.speak
- Bentfield Bower — potholes
streetcar.relax.lobster
- Bentfield Bower — pothole and verge erosion
decorator.wreck.sunset
- Church Road — potholes
earplugs.angry.lightbulb
- Grove Hill — surface erosion
soccer.elastic.doubt
- High Lane — surface degradation at several points
drive.diets.rooks

In February the County Council said they would set aside an extra £6 million for highway repairs on top of the £102m already budgeted. But with the pace of repairs disappointingly slow residents



have become used to reading the words on Essex Highways TrackIt reporting tool: "Repair will be undertaken within a non-specified timescale."

Community defibrillators

SMPC to pay for upkeep of three devices




Parish Councillors agreed in February to take on the upkeep costs of three of Stansted's defibrillators. The decision means these life-saving devices can remain available for community use after their current guardians expressed difficulties in raising funds for new batteries and pads. The defibrillators whose maintenance will now be funded by SMPC are located at Bentfield Green, Lower Street and Walpole Meadows. These devices were originally purchased through community fundraising initiatives. In addition to the initial cost of the units and their installation defibrillators require replacement pads every two to three years (approximately £60) and new batteries every four to five years (around £400). The local patrons responsible for these sites had been finding it increasingly difficult to

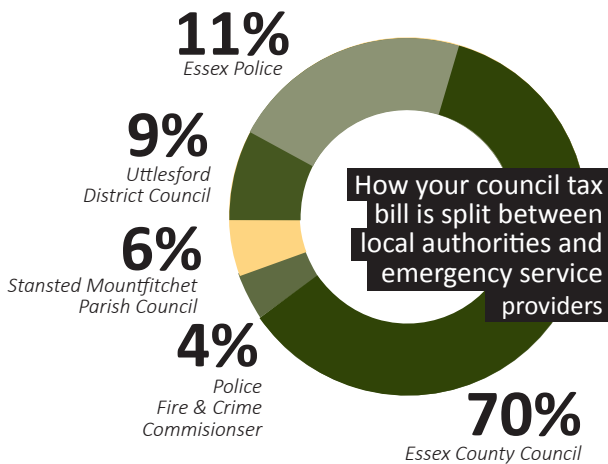
raise the funds needed to maintain the units and keep them publicly accessible. SMPC has also agreed to cover the upkeep costs of the defibrillator located outside our building leased to TouchPoint.

Defibrillators are an essential community resource. They are life-saving medical devices that deliver a high-energy electric shock to the heart to help restore a normal rhythm during sudden cardiac arrest. Their use in the critical minutes following a cardiac arrest can dramatically improve a person's chances of survival.

There are currently ten defibrillators available across the village, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week (see map on page 23). A number of additional devices are located at local businesses, dental practices and schools in Stansted. Access to these units may be limited to normal opening hours, but further information is available on our website.

 stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/defibrillators

Council Tax 2026/27



	* Tax for a Band D Property	increase £/year	% Increase
ECC	£1,641.96	£62.37	3.95%
Essex Police	£275.31	£14.94	5.74%
UDC	£187.46	£5.44	2.99%
SMPC	£151.91	£6.14	4.20%
Police/Fire Service	£92.52	£4.95	5.65%
Total	£2349.16	£88.89	4.16%*

*as a percentage increase in Council Tax on a band-D property when compared to the previous tax year 2025/26

Flood prevention and planning

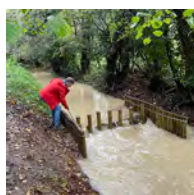
Team work the key to keeping Stansted safe

With the storms of winter hopefully tailing off, now is a good chance to shine a light on the SMPC's flood prevention work, which centres around its Flood Emergency Plan. Under this plan, the Parish Council works closely with a team of flood wardens, providing them with torches and high-viz vests, among other things. The wardens monitor water levels in the Ugley Brook, especially during periods of heavy rainfall such as those experienced recently.

The flood wardens are split into two teams. The first consists of seven volunteers who keep the trash screen at the culvert by the Dog and Duck pub clear of debris. They also communicate via WhatsApp to share updates and flag potential flood risks. The second team, made up of around 20 volunteers, responds when flooding is likely. They put out warning signs, divert traffic from flooded roads, and, if necessary, fill and distribute sandbags to households and businesses.

The Flood Emergency Plan identifies areas most at risk—Lower Street, Gall End, Manor Road, and Brewery Lane, near Ugley and Stansted Brooks at the bottom of Chapel Hill—and assigns roles to help manage flooding and keep residents and road users safe. SMPC also funds flood defences along Ugley Brook.

In recent times deluges are a fixture of the summer months, not just the winter ones. Which makes it a great idea to sign up for the flood alerts and warnings service run by Environment Agency:



<https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings>

No litter pick in 2026

Individuals invited to contact SMPC for bags, pickers & vests



In March, as part of the Great British Spring Clean organised by Keep Britain Tidy, residents who were keen to tidy up their local area were invited to contact Uttlesford District Council to borrow "all the equipment you need". Although the nationwide campaign has now ended, Stansted Mountfitchet

Parish Council is pleased to extend this invitation to individuals and community groups in Stansted that would like to carry out their own litter picks.

In recent years, complaints about untidy verges, hedgerows and public gardens have reduced significantly. This is a testament to the many residents who already take pride in keeping the village tidy.

As a result — and noting a decline in participation in the annual organised litter pick — Parish Councillors on the Open Spaces Committee agreed in January that, rather than organising a large-scale parish litter pick in 2026, it would be more effective to aid residents directly by making litter bags, litter pickers and high-visibility vests available to residents and community groups wishing to organise their own local clean-ups.

So, if you are interested in borrowing equipment or arranging a community litter pick, please contact the Parish Council office for further details. Our sincere thanks go to all residents who already undertake litter picks.

Fitting tribute

A plaque is to be commissioned in memory of the much-respected community figure Peter Jones, who passed away last September. The long-serving Parish Councillor dedicated many years of service to the community of Stansted Mountfitchet, where he lived for more than 50 years. In recognition of his outstanding contribution the plaque will be installed on the exterior of the Mountfitchet Exchange. Parish Councillors have also agreed that a noticeboard inside the building will bear Peter's name and details some of his efforts on behalf of this village. This will serve as a lasting tribute to his commitment and service to the village.



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Download an application pack

You can find out more about what being a Parish Councillor involves on our website where you can also download a co-option application pack:

stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk/joinsmpc



Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council

Clerk Ruth Clifford

Deputy Clerk Emma Philbrick

Communications Officer Dan Schlanker

Email: 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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stanstedcouncil

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

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johnobrien@stanstedmountfitchet-pc.gov.uk

Geoffrey SELL | ☎ 815925

cllrsell@uttlesford.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are on Wednesdays from 7.30pm at the Mountfitchet Exchange. You can also follow meetings online using Zoom. The log-on details are published with the agendas ahead of meetings on the SMPC website:

8th April Full Council

15th April Open Spaces

22nd April Highways

29th April Full Council

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

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email: alexander.stewart@essex.police.uk; Call 101 (non-serious), or 999 (serious & ongoing incidents) www.essex.police.uk/ro/report

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 at the Mountfitchet Exchange every Thursday from 9.30am-3pm, except when Peabody operate advice sessions. An advisor is also on hand via computer hook-up on Monday, Wednesday & Friday. **Peabody Trust's** drop-in service—also at the Mountfitchet Exchange—is on **Thursday, 9th April** from 11am-3pm. Advisors can help with issues such as benefits evictions rent arrears, debt and addictions.

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 Cra on Green Wednesdays 5-5.30pm;

Thursdays 10am-2pm, Fridays 1-2pm and Saturdays 10-11am

Community Cafe Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 8.30am-noon

Free hot meals on Thursdays 12.30-2.30pm

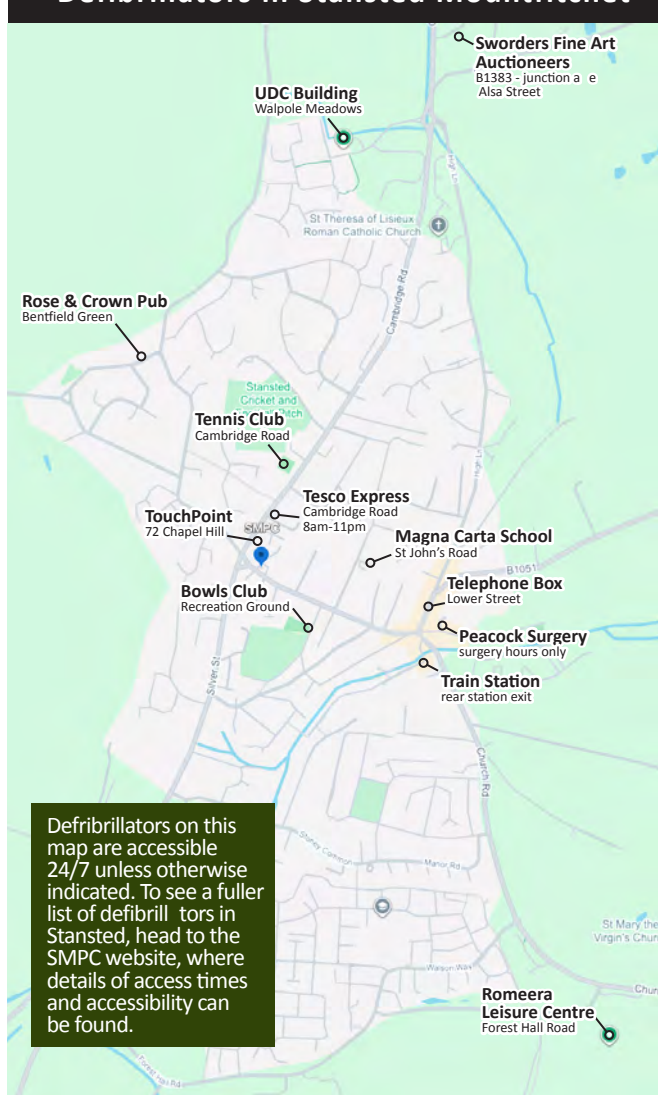
Breakfast Club every Friday 9am-10am

Contact info@thetouchpoint.org ☎ 07572 114882

Garden Waste Skip Service

The SMPC-funded garden waste service runs in the Lower Street car park on **Sunday, 12th April** and **Sunday, 26th April** — 1-5pm.

Defibrillators in Stansted Mountfitchet



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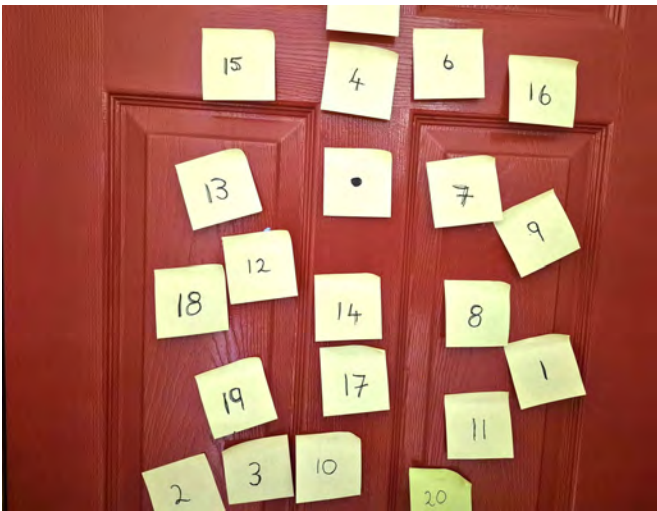
BRAIN TRAINING

How to reduce the chances of falling over, Part 1

There are two absolutely primal fears: falling over and loud noises. Fear of falling makes sense since it can be very bad news indeed. The good news is that we can do things to make us less likely to fall, and if we do, to fall less disastrously. The elements I will explore are good peripheral vision, strong feet, balanced balance organs and practise falling over!

Peripheral vision

Vision has two main elements: peripheral and focused or foveal vision. What we are focusing our eyes on, the central part of our vision, is only about 5% of our total visual field. The remaining 95% is our peripheral field of vision. One cause of falling over is tripping over something. The better our peripheral vision, the more we are able to become aware of trip hazards. There are a couple of simple exercises that will help improve peripheral vision: snow angels and post-it notes. Snow angels: stand looking straight ahead. Lift your arms up ahead of you and wiggle your fingers. Now move your arms in two half circles, going as high, wide and low as you can while keeping your wiggly fingers in view, with head and eyes staying still.



The other exercise: get some post-it notes and draw a dot in the centre of one. Put that on a wall about nose height. Now stick the other notes around it spreading them out randomly; these notes should be numbered 1-20. Stand an arm's length away from the centre note and, staring only at the centre dot, find the numbers using your peripheral vision. No cheating, eyes on that dot. To avoid trip hazards, it is vital that peripheral vision is as clear in the lower areas as elsewhere.

Clare Harding
Tel: 07802 872919



HUW JOHNSON CLUB

We are a social club for adults with a learning disability and we meet on the third Thursday of the month 7.00pm-8.45pm, usually in St John's Hall, for a range of fun activities to bring people together.

Our February meeting was a chance for everyone to catch up over board games and craft activities and we are looking forward to taking to the dance floor at a disco for our next meeting. As always, new members are welcome to come along and try the Club out; please get in touch to check the details of the next session. New volunteers to help us put on the activities and help transport members to and from the sessions are always very welcome too.

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



From little seeds

Our volunteers are busy planting seeds at home, under the protection of warm windowsills or a propagator. We are getting ready to plant out on the allotment once the soil warms up; later in the season, we can plant directly into the ground but to get things going, we plant some seeds at home. There is something truly special about seeing shoots appear from those tiny magic seeds. The excitement builds when it is time to plant out; that is when we need all hands on deck to get the beds ready and shipshape. The anticipation of sharing the crops, even enjoying them for ourselves, really keeps us going through the dark winter months.



If you fancy joining in with the magic of growing produce, we welcome anyone to the Human Roots allotment. You really do not have to be a Monty Don; all ideas and suggestions are welcome. We try to meet up once a week. Understandably people have other commitments, so there is no pressure and of course it depends on the weather. We plant and tend the allotment throughout the year, which also includes the best bit, picking our lovely produce. An allotment is a place where you never stop learning; for example a few volunteers are keen to try sugar snap peas, so watch this space and hopefully we will have a winner to report later in the year. Our aim is to put a bit back into the local community. If you are interested in joining us, please email: humanrootscommunity@gmail.com. Thank you.

Ashley Huggonson
Volunteer



TouchPoint
'Memory Lane' Café
For those living with dementia, and their loved ones and carers

Join us every week for companionship, activities, and a cup of tea or coffee.

- Every Monday morning
- Free to attend
- 10am to noon, drop in at any time
- At TouchPoint, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted CM24 8AQ

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For more information, call 07572 114882, email info@thetouchpoint.org, or visit thetouchpoint.org



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The subject for our February meeting was the *envelope* and our speaker, one of our members, entertainingly introduced us to the history of the envelope and its popularity from 1840 onwards. This was when the invention of the one penny black stamp revolutionised the postal service. Prior to 1840 the recipient had to pay to receive their mail, not the sender, a system which must have caused difficulties and delays.

The speaker brought along a number of interesting items from her collection including a wooden writing box made by her grandfather in the 1900s and a letter from the Duke of Gloucester dated 1822 addressed to Henry Gunning of Christ's College Cambridge.

We moved onto a very decorative French envelope and letter posted in Paris in 1938 addressed to Betty Hanley, a lady who years later established an interior design business in London specialising in lighting. She held the Royal Warrant for supplying Buckingham Palace and other royal residences.

The next item out of the writing box was an envelope containing a Christmas card decorated with an image of the Château de Cande in the Loire Valley, shown in the photo below, where the Duke and Duchess of Windsor were married in June 1937.

Next came a Jacquard scarf decorated with envelopes addressed to French military personnel including Charles de Gaulle. Dating from 1942, the scarf belonged to the speaker's mother. The last item out of the box was an envelope addressed to Edith Piaf and a rendition of one of her much-loved songs, *Hymn to love*.



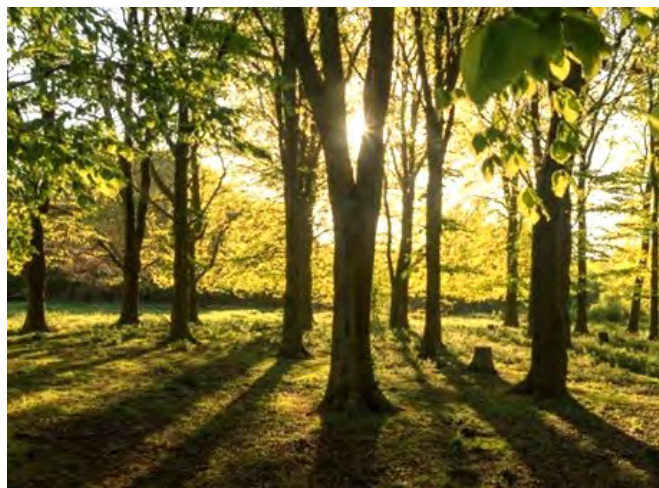
Château de Cande

Our April meeting will be on **Wednesday 15th April** at 2.00pm in Ugley Village Hall. It will feature Sue Martineau and tales of her Sri Lankan childhood. You would be most welcome to join us.

Andrea Fitt
Tel: 815922

Great spotted woodpeckers are regular residents of the forest, thriving among the veteran trees and standing dead-wood which provide both nesting sites and a rich supply of insects. On crisp mornings, their drumming can echo through the coppice and wood pasture.

As the months go on, drumming gradually gives way to nest building, with birds excavating holes in softened wood. These nest sites will later be reused by other woodland species, making woodpeckers important engineers of the forest ecosystem.



April brings the first signs of spring, one of which is dozens of species of plants and wildflowers blossoming into life. Wildflowers such as lesser celandine, primrose, cowslip, dog's violet and speedwell are abundant at ride edges and across the grass plains. The woodland becomes carpeted by dog's mercury and cuckoo pint, whilst the coppices support rarer species like herb paris, stinking hellebore and oxlip.

A short walk from the café to the back of the dog free zone is the decoy lake. Take a short stroll around the recently coppiced lake edge to see waterfowl building their nests, fish basking at the surface or maybe a grass snake soaking up the spring sunshine.

We are open all week, Monday to Sunday, 9.00am-3.30pm. The café is open until 4.00pm serving hot drinks, delicious cakes and savoury items. More information can be found on our website.

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





ST CLARE HOSPICE

www.stclarehospice.org.uk

On **Sunday 12th April** at 10.30am outside the Hospice in Hastingwood CM17 9JX hundreds of runners will line up at the start of our annual 10k run, raising vital funds with every mile. There is still time to sign up for anyone who wants a meaningful challenge for a great cause. Among this year's runners is 19-year-old Layla Ellis, from Stansted, who is taking on the challenge in memory of Nicky Berg, a family friend, who died in 2025 after a courageous five-year battle with breast cancer. Layla has already raised an incredible £1,380 for the Hospice, inspired by the care Nicky and her family received. Layla says: *I am taking on the 10k run in memory of Nicky, who I can only describe as my second mother. She has been part of my life for as long as I can remember; my parents, Carol and Jamie, became best friends with Nicky and her husband Andy more than 30 years ago. Nicky was one of the strongest and most positive people I have known, and anyone who met her remembers her warmth, kindness and smile.*



Layla Ellis, Jamie Ellis, Nicky Berg and Carol Ellis at Nicky's 50th birthday celebrations

Anyone interested in taking part can still sign up. Entry: £21 standard runners, £19 affiliated runners, and £19 for wheelchair racers. If you raise £200 or more, you will receive a free personalised running vest. Register now at stclarehospice.org.uk/stclare10k. If you would like to support Layla as she runs in memory of Nicky, visit stclarehospice.enthuse.com/pf/layla-ellis.

Ellen Munson
Marketing and Communications Officer
Tel: 773700

Email: communications@stclarehospice.org.uk



RECYCLING



Recently I took three very large bags of used stamps to my contact in Bishop's Stortford who takes them, along with foreign and old UK coins, to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). A big thank you to everyone who took the trouble to remove the stamps from their envelopes. We are still collecting so please place them in the box outside the main blue door of the Free Church at the bottom of Chapel Hill along with the other items for recycling: original ink cartridges, mobile phones, iPads and tablets. There is also a collecting box in the porch of St John's church, which is open most Tuesday mornings and some Saturday mornings. Please place items in a paper or plastic bag or envelope using a separate bag for each category. You can also leave items for recycling in the porch of 7 Blythwood Gardens.

Other items

Please do not leave spectacles, blister packs or any dental products, as they only end up in the dustbin and we only have one small one at the church. Thank you.



Marion and Mike Dyer
Tel: 814059

Email: recycle@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk



STANSTED FOOTBALL CLUB

www.essexseniorleague.co.uk

We reach the final month of the FA National League Season with the first team still clinging on to the hope that we make the play-off finals. Even if we miss out, the whole Club will still regard this season as a massive change in our fortunes. It has been so encouraging to our supporters to see a group of players who want to compete for the Club and are not tempted to leave for pastures new when the going gets tough. Added to this, our team management have progressively given opportunities to a number of our youth squad to be involved with the first team. This we believe is the future of the Club. The wet weather through early spring has led to new fixture dates being notified by the league, so it is important that our supporters get fixture updates via our social media sites.

Away from the first team, our veterans and youth teams will continue their seasons into the month of May. However as Hargrave Park will be used for cricket, their matches will need to be scheduled at venues outside Stansted. Finally, as this is our last article for the season, the Club committee, team management and players wish to thank all our volunteers, supporters, and neighbours for all their unwavering support throughout the past nine months.

Final fixtures at Hargrave Park are as follows:

31st March v Lymore Gardens Kick off 7.45pm
18th April v Rayleigh Town Kick off 3.00pm



Tom Williams
Tel: 07921 4033842



STANSTED BOWLS CLUB

www.stanstedbowlingclub.co.uk

The time is nearly upon us for the start of the summer outdoor season. Plenty of work behind the scenes is under way with the Clubhouse getting a facelift as well as all the work to prepare the green for the battles ahead. Fixtures are being added to the website. So, if you are at a loose end during the summer, you will be more than welcome to pop in, have a cool drink and watch a game or two.

There are two dates for your diaries in April. On **Friday 17th April** 7.00pm for 7.30pm we will be holding our now famous Fun Quiz Night. If you are interested in a table please contact me. **Sunday 26th April** sees the Club host a gala where 18 teams from local clubs compete for the first silverware of the outdoor season. Play starts at 10.00am. Here's to the start of a wonderful season.

David Danby
Secretary
Tel: 07799 722940
Email: daviddanby30@gmail.com



STANSTED HALL AND ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB

www.stanstedhallelsenhamcricket.club

Open Day

We are holding an Open Day on **Sunday 26th April** 3.00pm-5.00pm and would be very pleased if you could join us. On arrival you will be offered tea and light refreshments, and then be shown around our beautiful ground and facilities by one of our members. A match will be in progress providing the weather is kind to us. We are hidden away on the road between Stansted and Elsenham, postcode CM24 8ST. A sign will be on the road.



You could be looking for a new club; we take children from the age of 5 years so your child may be considering playing cricket. Or you may live in the village and have not visited us before. Just pop along and you will discover a hidden gem.



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



Stansted Tennis Club

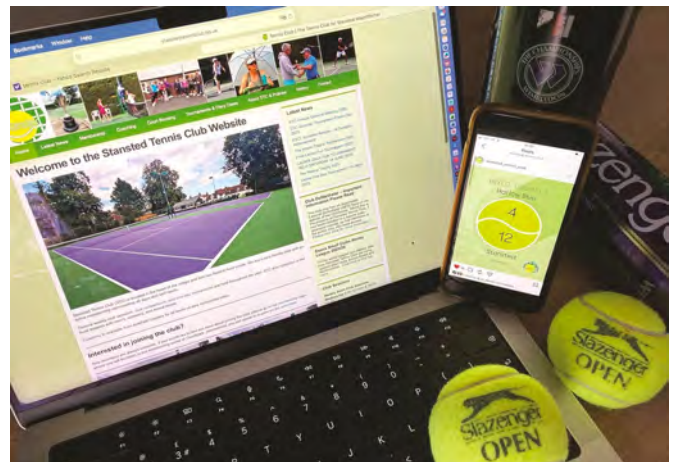
Founded 1889

www.stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

Talking tennis tech

Technology is literally everywhere these days; it even plays a major role at the village tennis club. From an online court booking system to a brand-new Club Instagram page, technology is helping the Club grow and thrive. Members benefit hugely from the online court booking system *Club Spark* which is attached to our website. It is incredibly easy to use and has helped social tennis thrive since its introduction. Once the date is locked in, WhatsApp and Weather Apps take over in communicating match details.

Coaching, tournaments and league fixtures can all be booked in advance using the online diary system. The Committee also uses *Club Spark* and it has helped reduce the admin workload significantly. Other benefits include keeping our members' data secure and compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Gail Hogg keeps everything running super smoothly behind the scenes.



Please see our website for information on tournaments, league matches, social events and much more. It is the perfect starting point for people thinking of joining the Club.

Our thanks go to Gerred Gilronan (Gee) who does a great job of keeping everything up-to-date uploading news, match results and new photos on a regular basis. Looking to the future, coach Dan Warwick has recently set up the Club's Instagram page, aimed to attract and keep younger members engaged with a fun way of communicating. Please take a look on Instagram at stansted_tennis_club.

Coaching

Junior and adult group coaching sessions are underway. For details, please contact Dan email: danw.tennis@gmail.com or Phil email: phil_tennis@outlook.com.

Jon Budd
Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk

ST JOHN'S 300 CLUB

Many congratulations to the winners of the February draw:

£100	No 190	Barbara Bryant
£50	No 4	Linda and Tony Gurr
£25	No 245	Amanda Snelling

The draw for April will be held on **26th April** in St John's Church, following the 9.30am service. Numbers at £2 per month for each number are still available to anyone who may wish to join the Club and be in with a chance of winning one of the 38 prizes totalling £2,500 given away this year. The Club raises vital money to help cover the heavy maintenance costs and work of St John's Church.

Jean Newson
Tel: 819062
Email: jean733@btinternet.com

NEWPORT AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

As I write, the sun is shining, the daffodils are in bloom and the leaves on the bushes and trees are starting to burst. Spring is around the corner! To welcome the start of our year, the lovely and very talented Gill McGregor showcased her talents again at our February meeting. Gill first began to compete in flower arranging competitions at the age of 11, managed a West End London florist at the age of 20 and at 22 was teaching. She has demonstrated all over the world, still teaches and shares her floral design and arrangement ideas in the many books she has written. As a testament to her popularity, Ugley Village Hall was bursting at the seams! Her wonderful arrangements filled the hall and delighted members and visitors alike. Some were lucky enough to go home with one of her designs, won in the raffle.



Our annual AGM is on **Wednesday 15th April** and will be followed by a fun quiz with sweet and savoury nibbles. Visitors are always welcome. Please contact us using the new email address shown below. You can also follow us on Facebook at Ugley Bunch Flower Club. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month 7.00pm for 7.30pm in Ugley Village Hall.

Sandra Honour
Email: ugleybunchflowerclub@gmail.com



SUSTAINABLE STANSTED

www.sustainablestansted.org

We aim to help you to save energy, money and the planet:

Energy

We provide information and energy-saving advice in a number of different ways, mainly through leaflets, clinics, talks and also through our website and Facebook page, Sustainable Stansted. We also suggest a number of other sources of good quality energy-saving tips, such as the Energy Saving Trust on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk; or you can search *Which?* energy saving advice, or media outlets such as The Guardian, BBC and Essex County Council. All of these are well resourced and offer good information and tips.



Money

Using less energy saves money, but we are also working on the possibility of offering residents the chance to buy some renewable green energy, produced locally, at a lower price than they pay now. If you are interested, please email us.

The planet

Our overall purpose at Sustainable Stansted is to combat the climate crisis that we are facing. Our Energy Group is co-operating with others to try and install renewable energy sources, mainly solar panels and batteries on public buildings in Stansted. This approach is called Community Energy and it is well established in other areas of the country, and abroad. If you know of a public building that should have solar panels, please let us know. We hope to hear from you.

Bob Burlton
Energy Group
Email: sustainablestansted@gmail.com

POT LUCK QUIZ 3 ANSWERS

1 Leo 2 Mona Lisa 3 Laverbread 4 Lake Garda
5 Bull 6 Plutonium 7 Chameleon 8 Four (Noah and his three sons) 9 The Drifters 10 Rorke's Drift

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	David Danby Tel: 07799 722948 Email: daviddanby30@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	Sparks Netball	Gemma Snelling Tel: 07368 809138 Email: gemmasnelling@me.com
CAB	Tel: 01799 618840	Stansted and District Past Rotarians Club	Geoff Lay Email: geofflay.22@gmail.com
Corkers Netball	Lizzie Read Tel: 07770 594848	Stansted Badminton	Vince Tel: 07793 000107
Cub Scouts (Tue) Age 8-10½	Huskies Charlotte Graham char.huskies1ststansted@yahoo.com	Stansted Business Forum	Iris Evans Email: iris.evans9@gmail.com
(Thu)	Bulldogs Hazel Crundwell 1ststanstedcubsbulldogs@gmail.com	Stansted Cricket Club (Adults)	Ben Sammons Tel: 07852 510330 Email: bensammons3178@gmail.com
Explorer Scouts	Roger Pettett Tel: 07715 740715	(Juniors)	Keith Ayres Tel: 814471
Friends of St Mary's Church	Lynda Dale Tel: 07716 099474 Email: lynnydale@hotmail.com	Stansted Football Club	Tom Williams Tel: 07921 403842
Fun Place on the Hill	Sue Parker Tel: Tel: 657116 Email: funplace@stanstedfreechurch.org.uk	Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club	David Brown Tel: 831011/07788 999663 Email: david1.r.brown@gmail.com
Garden Club	Maralyn Harris Tel: 07919 478144	Stansted is Well Read	Diana Griffin Tel: 813056 Email: stanstediswell read@gmail.com
Grove Cottage	Sarah Smith Email: comms@mencapgrovecottage.org	Stansted Social Club	Andrew Sharpe Tel: 812992 Email: stanstedclub@gmail.com
Guides	Jennifer Jarvis Tel: 814434	Stansted Speed Watch	Warren Vickers Tel: 813996 Email: vickersw@aol.com
History Society	Roger Barrett Tel: 814216 Email: rmbarrrett54@gmail.com	Stansted Tennis Club	Fiona Kelly Tel: 07949 623484 Email: contact@stanstedtennisclub.co.uk
Human Roots	Keiran Oliver Tel: 07946 783039 Email: keiran@humanrootscommunity.org.uk	Talking Newspaper (BS and District)	Richard Barnett Tel: 651270 Email: familybarnett24@hotmail.com
Huw Johnson Club	Ellen Brooks Tel: 07800 896516 Email: ellenbrooks@hotmail.co.uk	The Hundred Parishes Society	Ken McDonald Tel: 813226 Email: hundredparishes@btinternet.com
Let's Talk, Stansted Mental Health Support	Richard Haywood Tel: 07794 268208 Email: contact@stanstedmentalhealth.org	TouchPoint	Shirley Johnson Tel: 07572 114882 Email: info@thetouchpoint.org
Little Scrummers	Andrew Poyser Tel: 07738 591232	Town Twinning	Chairman: Geraldine Allars Tel: 07833 089298 Email: twinning@stanstedmountfitchetpc.gov.uk
Millers (Windmill)	Tudor Owen Tel: 810805 Email: info@stanstedwindmill.co.uk	u3a	Susan Sedgebeer Email: stanstedu3a@gmail.com
music@stansted	Sonia Levy Tel: 815282	WI (Stansted)	Linda Gurr Tel: 07743 549241
Classical concerts	Email: contactus@musicatstansted.co.uk	WI (Ugley)	Andrea Fitt Tel: 815922
Neighbourhood Watch	Linzi Shelford Tel: 07427 377118 Email: linzishelford@hotmail.com	Youth Centre	Essex Youth Services Tel: 07584 140507
Parkinson's UK	Simon Russell Tel: 01799 524638 Email: simonrussell2@tiscali.co.uk		
Uttlesford Support Group	Lorraine Hayes Tel: 814242 Email: admin@rainbowpreschool.net		
Rainbow Pre-School	Abbie Scott Tel: 07754 768764 Email: abbierose12a@icloud.com		
Rainbows (Wed)	Peter Latham Tel: 881607 Email: stortvalleyrotary@gmail.com		
Rotary Club			

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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01279 813371 or 07973 409675
www.hazel-williams.co.uk



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