

The Three Villages Magazine



COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS



Price: £1.00

Issue 2

June 2022

WINNER: 1st



HERALDIC LION
Holly (age 10)



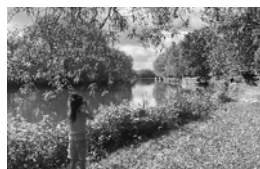
The Three Villages Magazine

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From the Editor...



Cover: Photograph by
Katy Smawfield

Welcome to the second issue! The Three Villages Magazine is a joint venture between the three Parish Councils of Great Amwell, St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots, and The 3 Churches Benefice. It is intended as a new community resource that is accessible to everyone. The online and print formats provide a platform to share local news and information, showcase local talent and support local businesses.

We have been calling this issue our 'Jubilee Issue' as we are celebrating The Platinum Jubilee. We hope that our readers are able to join in on some of the events running locally. Please do send us stories and photos, which we will put on our website. Within this issue, we have included some of your memories of the Queen and organised a Children's Art Competition in honour of The Platinum Jubilee. I'm sure you will agree that the children have done an amazing job and we are very proud to display their work on our cover.

The magazine is issued quarterly with publication in March, June, September and December. If you wish to contribute to forthcoming issues this year, the deadlines are 4th July (September issue) and 3rd October (December issue). Please send all submissions and any related questions to print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

Every issue, the photograph used on the front cover is selected from a local photographer. This issue's cover features the work of Katy Smawfield. The delightful image shows Sophie Smawfield taking a photo on the tow path just beyond Stanstead Abbots. If you would like to enter your work for the next cover, please send your photograph(s) to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

Continued thanks are also offered to Willowthorpe Care Home, our kind sponsors, and East Herts District Council for their contribution.

Please do check out our website (www.thethreevillages.com), subscribe to our News & Events blog for all live events and important up-to-date news, and follow us on Facebook.

Happy reading!

Anna Bond
Editor

THE THREE VILLAGES COMMITTEE

Anna Bond	Rosemary Imroth
Julia Davies	Clare Maynard
Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest	Lyn Paddon

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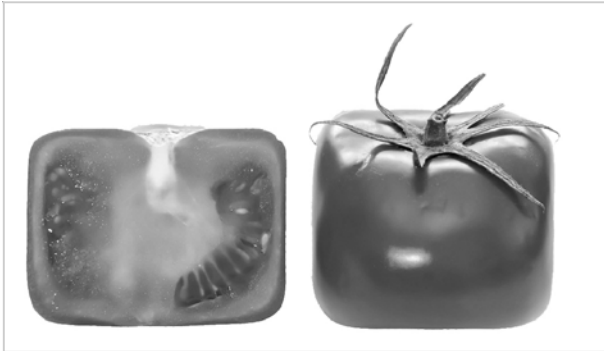
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FROM THE VICAR

Living in a box, living in a cardboard box...



Have you ever seen a square tomato? I remember seeing a TV programme where they talked about growing square fruit. As the individual fruit grows you put it in a box. As it continues growing it fills the space and takes up the shape of the box it sits in, so you can get square tomatoes and square melons that are easier to put in the fridge and stack nicely.

As we head into and take up this new season of life, this season where we are 'living with COVID', at times I feel a bit like a square tomato. It's like we've been living in the box of COVID, with all the restrictions, for so long that we've almost forgotten what it's like to be without it. It's like we've got so used to living in a box, used to

having our knees up under our chin, tucked in tight and not able to get out, stretch, and do the ordinary things of life, that it's quite hard when the box is removed. Suddenly I find myself needing to plan ahead for days out with the family... to plan ahead! It is a bit of a novelty, and I've almost forgotten that normally there's some certainty about what might happen next weekend. I find myself sometimes nervous, sometimes reluctant; that sense that I'm not sure I want to commit, just in case it doesn't happen. Once bitten, twice shy!

The scars of COVID are emotional and on many different levels. The experience of COVID has been so varied as well. I think of those who I am close to who have lost loved ones to COVID. I think of those whose family members died during this time and they didn't get to say a proper goodbye; to be there at the bedside, to have a proper funeral, and to celebrate their loved ones' lives. The pain continues and the journey of grief is difficult; more complicated for not having had the milestones along the road that you would expect.

Some of us hid away for months and months, but some of us were busier than ever, on the frontline as keyworkers. Nobody's experience is exactly the same as another person's. But we have all been changed and so has the world around us. To a greater or lesser extent, lots of us are struggling with both the changes and with that sense that although the box has been removed, we still feel a bit box shaped.

As I look at the world around us, though, at life bursting out of the ground; the roses springing up outside my window and the lilacs in bloom, I am reminded that if you take a plant and just give it some space, it will find its own way to head towards the sun; find its own space to unfurl and open up. We will each do this in our own timing. We will find our confidence again in time, but we might just need a little help and support. Most of us, once we recognise that we're finding things tough, can make a plan to move forward. But some of us might need to talk about how we feel with friends or family; some might need a little help from outside. All of us need to have some compassion for ourselves and, even more, we need to have compassion for our neighbours.



Dr Rev'd Sarah Forrest
Priest in Charge, The 3 Churches Benefice



The 3 Churches Benefice

OUR HISTORIC CHURCHES: ST JAMES



St James's Church

'The gem in the crown of Stanstead Abbots', so claimed Ian White, the founder of the Stanstead Abbots Local History Society (SALHS). Queen Elizabeth I must have thought much the same as she worshipped there three times during her summer stays (the Royal Progress) at nearby Stansteadbury Manor.

So what's so special about our St James? It's old. Very old. Built on the site of an even earlier church, the nave walls are stated to be from the twelfth century, while the eastern wall was finished in the thirteenth century. The font is also thirteenth century while the west tower is fifteenth century. Then, at a proposal from Queen Elizabeth I (with a suggestion you couldn't refuse!), the north chapel was added. This allowed all her huge retinue to be able to worship together. Later Victorian worshippers found themselves, literally,

'boxed in' with the addition of high-panelled box pews, which gives the church a certain uniqueness.

But it's possible that readers may never have seen St James's Church. Its slightly hidden location is just off the Roydon Road, on the left hand side, and was built on one of the highest points in the village's boundary. This elevated location met the spiritual and physical needs of the locals who all lived in that vicinity to escape the regular flooding of the Lea and the Stort rivers. But eventual drainage meant that the villagers could now move and live closer to the river. So going to church meant a steep climb up Cat's Hill, which was very tough on dark winter days with no street lights!

The new Lord of the Manor, Thomas Fowell Buxton of Easneye, at his own expense, built in 1882 a new and more accessible church: St Andrew's. This became our Parish Church and St James was eventually declared redundant in 1977.

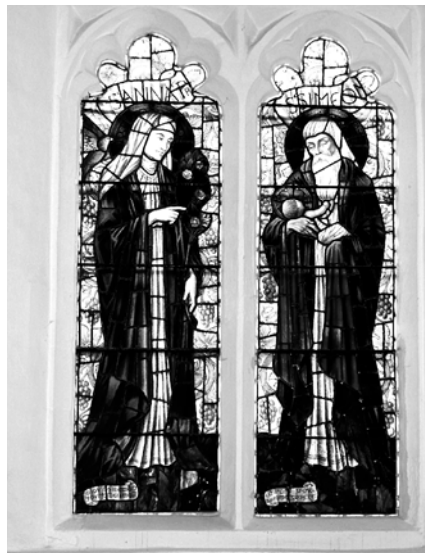
But 'redundant' doesn't mean 'inactive'! Check the website (www.stjamesoldchurch.org.uk) to discover its activities – from an atmospheric candlelight carol service to dramas put on by the This Is My Theatre touring company. There are five listed services each year plus summer opening times; all details can be found on the website. Take the opportunity to discover for yourself what makes St James's Church such a jewel!

Bob Hunt, Chair SALHS and Trustee of St James

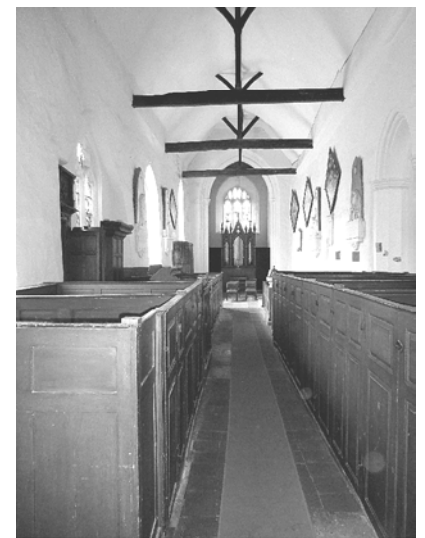
PS. More details can be found on p.138 of Ron Dale's *A History of Stanstead Abbots, Rye House and St Margarets* (2013), which is available to purchase at The Village Pharmacy.



The North Chapel



The North Chapel stained glass



The high-panelled box pews



The Baeshe Memorial

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THE PLATINUM JUBILEE: MEMORIES OF THE QUEEN

In honour of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we asked you to share your memories of Her Majesty during her 70 years of service. Thank you to those who shared their stories and also to Stanstead Abbotts Local History Society for letting us use items from their archives.

Mum celebrated her 100th birthday on 26th June 2015 with a service in St Margarets' Parish Church followed by a wonderful buffet for family and friends in Nigel Copping Community Centre. Having reached her 100th birthday, she received a card from The Queen. Mum was an avid opera buff and so I arranged for the Ware Operatic singers to come along during the evening and perform some of the songs from her favourite operas – something she treasured. After all of the day's celebrations, Trevor and I took mum and Trevor's sister



on a Cruise around the Norwegian Ffords. Sadly, mum passed away exactly one month before her 105th birthday, which would have seen her receive her second birthday card from The Queen.

Lyn Paddon

Coronation Day
Comic Football
Match Team, 1953



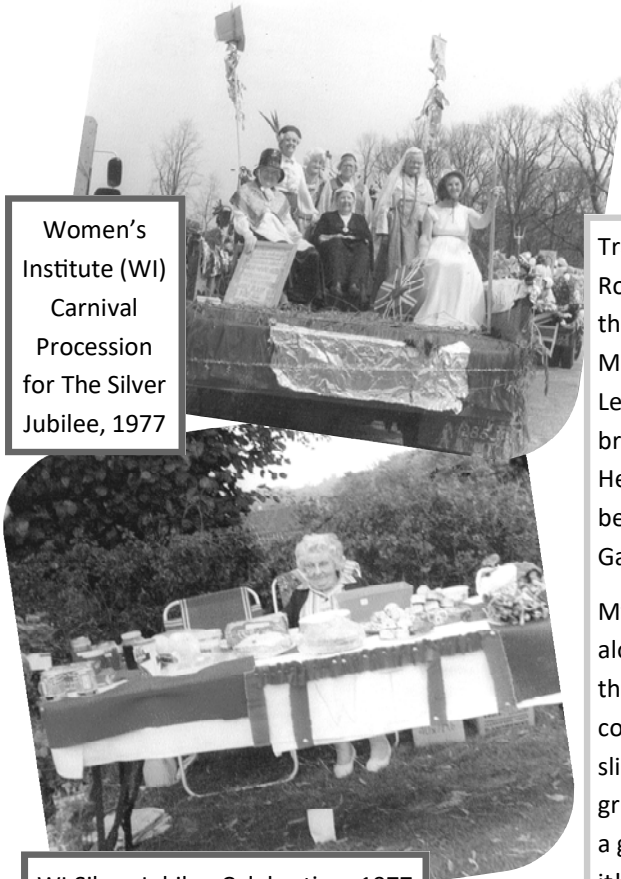
Bishop's Coronation
Celebration Window, 1953



Coronation
Parade, 1953



Women's
Institute (WI)
Carnival
Procession
for The Silver
Jubilee, 1977



WI Silver Jubilee Celebration, 1977

Traditionally, members of the youth organisations that are linked with the Royal Family are invited as 'helpers' to the summer Garden Parties. One of the Queen's many roles is as President of the, then, Girl Guides with Princess Margaret as our Patron. In 1999 I was the County Young Leader Adviser and one of six leaders nationally invited to bring a group of Young Leaders (14–18 year olds) from Hertfordshire to be helpers. This was a wonderful way of being part of the atmosphere and excitement of a Royal Garden Party, there to provide all sorts of support.

My very personal memory is that, while helping someone along the lawn beside the Royal Tea Tent, I caught sight of the Queen and Queen Mother standing behind the white covered table with teapots, cups and saucers etc. They slipped out of their heeled shoes, wiggled their feet on the cool grass, grinned at each other and then stepped back up into their shoes. It was such a great mother–daughter moment – and it still makes me smile to remember it!



Lynne Griffiths

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Great Amwell Parish Council

The Parish Council continues to meet on the second Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall, Hillside Lane at 8.00pm (except August when there is no meeting).

At present, some of the matters the Parish Council is focussed on are listed below:

- * Maintenance of the War Memorial adjoining the New River in Amwell Lane – bids are being sought to undertake cleaning works to this structure with the aim that they will be completed during the Summer 2022.
- * The Joint Neighbourhood Plan (JNP) (with Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets Parishes) – part of Great Amwell is, for the purposes of the JNP, within a designated area (Stanstead Abbots) of the District Council's local plan that has a target for housing provision. The JNP aims to identify sites for such development (amongst other things). A finalised proposed JNP will be subject to a local referendum before it can be adopted.
- * Repairs to the Parish Stocks (located in the Churchyard) – works are due to commence during the Summer.

The Parish Council has its own website that provides parishioners with useful information. Details of your parish councillors and recent copies of meeting agendas and minutes can be found at <https://gtamwellpc.org>. The business considered varies from the monthly planning applications, planning enforcement and highways issues of concern to ad hoc matters ranging from reports of anti-social behaviour, litter and on-street parking. If you have an issue of concern, that falls within the remit of local government, then please contact the parish council (greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com) to make your views known.

St Margarets Parish Council

The Council has continued with selected projects that not only benefit the community, but also the environment, which includes working with Lea Valley Regional Parks to improve the green area by The Jolly Fisherman and improving the wildlife habitat in the Nigel Copping field within Sanville Gardens.

We have been investigating funding our own PCSO; however, with crime figures being at a low level and our local police enforcement officers dealing with issues in a timely manner, it was decided that a PCSO is currently not needed. We are however proceeding with our request for speeding checks on specific roads. We continue to work with all the Parishes to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.

If anyone is interested in joining the Parish Council, please email our Clerk at stansteadstmargaretspcclerk@gmail.com.

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

The Council have successfully secured a grant for some much-needed improvements in the High Street and the village playground. Over the coming months all the bollards and the railings in the High Street are going to be repainted, a new fence is going to be erected around the outdoor gym that was installed last year and the damaged playground surface is going to be replaced, as well as a new piece of toddler equipment to replace the spinner that was destroyed by fire last year. We have also received some funding that has enabled us to purchase over a mile of bunting to decorate the High Street ahead of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As we were not able to tie the bunting to the lampposts in the High Street, this was handed out in May to those who wished to decorate their properties.

The Council have organised a Jubilee Party in conjunction with Stanstead Abbots and St Margaret's Village Club on Friday 3rd June from 12–4, kindly sponsored by Oliver Minton. The event will be held in the car park of The Village Club and is a FREE event to bring the community together to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We have tried to involve as many local organisations as possible and include:

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Cake stall provided by 1st Stanstead Abbots Brownies | * Jubilee Crafts for children provided by St Andrew's Church |
| * Live Music and dance performances on an outdoor stage, which is being built by French & Jupps | * Face Painting |
| * Tombola and Children's Lucky Bags by Bobtails Playgroup | * Ice Cream Van |
| * BBQ provided by The Village Club | * Various stalls selling a variety of gifts |
| * St Margaretsbury Football Club will also be involved on the day | * Jubilee balloon arch kindly donated by More Than B'loons in the High Street |

Please visit our website stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk and like our Facebook page for more information.

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SPIKE'S STORY OF STRENGTH

In April 2021, local teen Spike had a serious skateboarding accident, falling headfirst into a wall in Lower Road, Great Amwell. Mum, Carrie, shares the story.



I'm not sure where it started and where it ended. I remember hearing the air ambulance and the sirens, feeling my stomach sink, and the last text I'd had from Spike asking what time he had to be home. I remember seeing my phone flash with a call from Spike and feeling relieved to see his name come up. I answered it and it was a police officer. I got into an unmarked police car and they said we had to get to The Royal London Hospital now. I remember looking at the speedometer, the blue lights, and that my phone kept ringing and I wished it would stop. My memory stops there until I had to sign the consent forms for the brain surgery – a full right side craniectomy to save Spike's life.

When Spike arrived at the hospital he was intubated and ventilated, with a slim chance of survival. Spike was placed in an induced coma and taken straight into theatre. He had a broken skull, cheekbone and eye socket. They had to remove part of the bone from the skull to expose the brain and release the swelling. The injury had also damaged the nerve in Spike's eye. Spike had a team of neurosurgeons working on him and a specialist maxillofacial team.

His prognosis wasn't clear as the damage to the right side of his brain was significant, and the CT scan showed he also had possible damage to the gland in the base of his brain, which controls hormones and growth. However, the consultants were quietly confident as Spike passed the critical 72-hour stage. Progress was slow but positive.

After five days in hospital Spike woke up. He was breathing unaided, and we even got a thumbs up. He was confused but talking – and asked for David Bowie music! It was an amazing day; my boy was alive! We could leave critical care behind us and start the long road to recovery.



After bravely enduring three major surgeries and over 13 weeks in hospital, made even more difficult with COVID restrictions in place, Spike was discharged to begin rehabilitation at home. While it has been a really hard thing to go through, it is good to be able to say now that Spike's doing really well, progressing all the time. He attends school every morning – the fatigue gets to him occasionally, but he enjoys being back and mixing with his friends. We've fallen into a routine and things are starting to feel slightly normal again.

We want to say thank you to the Herts & Essex Air Ambulance and Hertfordshire Police, and the residents of Lower Road, Great Amwell, who helped before the emergency services arrived. Thank you to everyone at The Royal London Hospital who supported us. And finally thank you to everyone at The Children's Trust.

It's certainly been a journey, but Spike's now back at home with a bright future ahead.



Everyone at The Three Villages wishes Spike the very best as he continues on his road to recovery. His story is one of strength, community spirit, hope and positivity for the future.

To read the full story, check out Spike's page: www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/brain-injury-information/real-stories/sports-spike.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: THE WALLED GARDEN

Gini Trower, a Montessori trained teacher with a degree in Environmental Conservation, tells us all about The Walled Garden and her passion to continue the three-hundred-year-old tradition to grow vegetables in this stunning, seventeenth-century garden.

I married into the Trower family who have lived in the parish of Stanstead Abbots since 1855. We moved back here with our four children in 2001. Stanstead Bury Farm is our smallholding and part of our garden is a walled garden that is nearly half an acre in size. The walls of The Walled Garden are all seventeenth-century red brick and listed. As far as we know it was originally created to grow vegetables and fruit, and this is a tradition that I wanted to continue.

With my background in education, I was keen to get children in the garden with their families. For the last 12 years I have spent part of my week working outdoors in schools with small children of all ages, to get them interested in gardening and to allow them the chance to grow and maintain plants.



In 2017 I created a Facebook page (The Walled Garden Stanstead Abbots) and a website (www.thewalledgardenherts.com) asking people if they would be interested in garden workshops in our Walled Garden. The idea was to have families learning about growing food and having fun whilst doing so, and then buying some of the vegetables that we had grown. I was also keen to have some help with the jobs and be with others in The Walled Garden as it is much more fun doing it together.

In March 2018 we had our first session in the snow! Since then (apart from COVID disruptions) we have generally had workshops twice a month from March to October, although we recently had a snowdrop rescue session in January. The sessions usually last for two hours. We walk around the garden working out what jobs need doing and then everyone chooses what they want

to do. The Walled Garden is totally enclosed so is very safe and the children can just run around the paths exploring if they want.

On the farm we have a small herd of Red Poll Cows and I sell my beef locally, and I have hosted a couple of pop-up restaurants in our hay barn in support of local food and producers. In 2019 Stort Valley Organic came to help us. They help in The Walled Garden and rent one of our fields for growing vegetables. They are responsible for certifying The Walled Garden as organic. They operate a vegetable box scheme from the farm. They, like me, are keen to promote local food and use the benefits of natural resources to provide a balanced ecosystem for growing healthy plants. We understand the importance of soil and making compost and working with nature. We grow as sustainably as we can and harvest our rain water.



I have a lot of families who have been coming to The Walled Garden since I started and to me that is very special, but it is also great to welcome new people and to give others the opportunity to spend time in this beautiful tranquil place.

For more information on any of the above please contact me, Gini Trower, at ginitrower@btinternet.com.

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POEMS BY SHEILA LILLYWHITE

BAKING DAY

Behind her stands the cooking range,
Huge, black-headed, gleaming
And on the fire the kettle sits
Old, black-sooted, steaming.
Her ample arms are white with flour,
Her broadened back is aching.
Her knife is sharp, likewise her tongue.
Dear old Cookie's baking.

The children laugh, keep out of reach
And wait with cheeks a-dimpling
For any morsels handed out.
Will vanish in a twinkling.
Oh! Rosy lips and tearing teeth
Are for the new bread waiting.
With jam and butter, thickly spread
They will be celebrating.

THE OLD DOG

I had not seen the dog of late
Trotting past my garden gate
On some urgent business bent
Sniffing the air as he went

"Ho! Ben!" I'd cry.
He'd flick an ear.
"Pleasantries not heeded here!
There is some doggy work to do.
Can't waste time with the likes of you"

"Did you not know?" My neighbour said,
"Old Ben is dead!"

Goodbye old boy, I liked you well.
You cheered my life for one brief spell.
C'est la vie.

If you would like to see your work in the next issue of The Three Villages Magazine, please send your poem (550 words maximum) in Word and PDF formats to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

RECIPE: PEANUT BUTTER AND OAT COOKIES

Another easy recipe using just five ingredients! You can freeze for up to 2 months (after step 5), then cook from frozen by adding 2 minutes to the cooking time. If you want to reduce the sugar quantity a little, just add more oats.

INGREDIENTS

200g peanut butter
100g golden caster sugar
¼ tsp fine table salt
1 large egg
Handful of rolled oats

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C / 160 Fan / Gas Mark 4.
2. Line a baking tray with grease-proof paper.
3. Measure out the peanut butter and sugar into a bowl. Add ¼ tsp of salt and mix well.
4. Add the egg (beaten) and handful of oats, and mix again until it forms a rough dough.
5. Break off small chunks and place on the baking tray. Press the cookies down lightly with the back of a fork.
6. Bake for 12 minutes, until golden around the edges and soft in the middle.
7. Take out of the oven and cool on the tray for 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack and cool completely.
8. Store in an air-tight container for up to 3 days.



If you have a tried-and-tested recipe that you would like to share, please email to print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION: THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

In April, during the Easter Holidays, we held a Children's Art Competition for all school-age children living in the three villages. The theme was The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we asked entrants to use their imaginations to represent Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

Thank you and a big well done to everyone who took the time to submit an entry. We hope you had fun! Congratulations to all our winners:

WINNERS

Holly, age 10

Oscar, age 9

RUNNER-UP

Joseph, age 6



All winners received a certificate and a voucher to spend however they would like. The artwork can be seen on the inside and outside cover of the magazine in beautiful colour. Thanks again to everyone for taking part in making our Jubilee Issue so special.

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School

Past Pupil: Frank Brown



St John the Baptist Primary School has seen many pupils enter its doors over the years, but Rosemary Imroth caught up with a past pupil who has stayed within the education system in our local area.

Frank Brown started his education at St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School in Great Amwell where, in addition to all the other subjects, he started to learn to play the piano. In due course Frank left to go to Richard Hale in Hertford, and from there he went to Essex University and graduated with a degree in Computer Science. Frank then returned to Richard Hale School to teach Computer Science and is pictured (left) on his first day as a teacher.



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UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St Andrew's Church of England (VC) Primary School

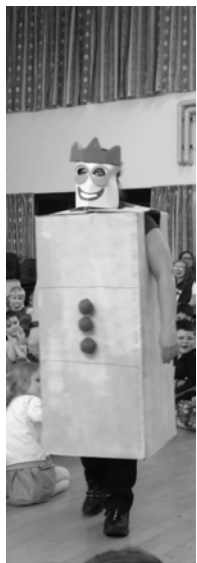
In so many ways our children at St Andrew's live and breathe our school vision, 'Learn to love and love to learn; in God's love each one will shine.'



This spring term has been a very busy one helping them to love to learn through a variety of different topics. There has been a definite historical and geographic bias with our Early Years exploring different 'Traditional Tales', Year 1 learning all about 'Castles', Year 2 becoming 'Explorers', Year 3 considering our 'Extreme Earth', Year 4 studying 'Rainforests', Year 5 learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and finally our Year 6 class studying WW2. Visits have included trips to Bletchley Park (Y6), St



Alban's Cathedral (Y2), Palmers Green Mosque (Y3) and a residential trip at Stibington for our Year 5 class. Year 1 had an exciting castle experience day and our Early Years had the awe and wonder of a delivery of fertilised eggs, which they watched as the chicks hatched and grew. Indeed, our chick webcam was very popular with all of our school for the two weeks the chicks were with us.



Alongside all of the learning, our Year 6 leadership team have initiated a number of charitable activities to help care for and help others. Some of the events organised by them have included Red Nose Day, Number Day activities on behalf of the NSPCC, World Book Day, cake sales and collecting donations for the people of Ukraine. Sport too remains high on the agenda with our flourishing netball and football team events, inter-school cross country events, a 'rapid fire cricket' tournament and a Sports Hall Athletics festival, which we won!

Finally, we have finished our spring term with a flurry of Easter activities. For the first time in over two years, the whole school joined together at St Andrew's Church for our Easter service. Led by our Year 6 leadership team and Spiritual Leads, we had readings and songs reflecting on the events of Easter Week. Our Year 3 and Year 4 classes have also brought these events to life through their end of term Easter performance. The children showed such confidence performing and all of the solos and speeches were outstanding.

We are now looking forward to more learning excitement in the summer term.

Helen Gillingham, Headteacher



UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College said goodbye to their Headteacher, Jan Liversage, who has worked for the school for exactly 34 years to the day. Jan joined Amwell View School, a maintained special school for pupils with severe learning and complex difficulties aged 2–19 years old, as a Senior Teacher on the 1st April 1988 and retired on the 1st April 2022.

The local authority seconded Jan to complete a BPhil (MIS) in order to set up Deaf Blind Provision, which is still in place today. Following this piece of work she joined the Senior Leadership Team as Deputy Headteacher in October 1994 and was appointed the Headteacher in September 1999.



A Bid for Autism provision at Amwell View School was successful and created specialist provision for children with ASD. Today the school has 62% of pupils with a diagnosis of Autism. Following this success, Jan developed an Outreach Service to support children with special educational needs in mainstream schools.

Jan has successfully led the school through four consecutive Ofsted Inspections to achieve 'Outstanding' ratings in 2006–07, 2009–10, 2014–15 and 2018–19.

During Jan's Headship the school's pupil roll increased from 60 to 154. Jan made this possible by increasing the school capacity through a number of innovative building, redesign and refurbishment projects. The school continued to grow and develop recently with a new Music Department, additional classroom and post-16 provision.

There have been a number of school facilities and resources that were developed under Jan's leadership, not limited to, but including:

- * The refurbishment of the school swimming pool and the building of a new classroom for post-16 students offering spacious learning environments that complement the curriculum.
- * The building of the 'Rosie Rainbow' Dance Studio complete with sprung flooring and a music system with lights and mirrored wall, which is a spacious learning environment. Above the Dance Studio is another new classroom for more post-16 students.
- * State-of-the-art multi-purpose Sensory Room with multi-sensory equipment including the Magic Carpet, water-bed, dark and light rooms, as well as the bubble tubes and sensory lights.
- * The Salon where pupils, as part of the curriculum, can desensitise having their hair washed, brushed and cut. The Salon is also used by the Specialist Dentists who are able to screen the pupils in an environment that is familiar for the children.
- * Soft Play, which was extended 2019–20, offering a large space for fun, play and learning.
- * The building of a new staff room and offices on the first floor enabled the school to refurbish and repurpose office space on the ground floor to become additional learning spaces and classrooms.

Jan's successor is Neil Ward who has worked at the school for 17 years. He joined Jan as the Co-Headteacher for the 18 months before she retired, and has been appointed to the position of Headteacher. We wish Jan all the best in her retirement and future ventures, just as we wish Neil every success in his new role.

Janet Warrington, School Business Manager

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PUZZLES FROM QUIZMASTER CATHAL BRENNAN

QUIZ: BRITAIN

1. What were the names of Hyacinth's sisters in 'Keeping Up Appearances'?
2. How are Peter, Janet, Jack, Barbara, George, Pam and Colin better known?
3. For what do the initial JK stand in the name of the Harry Potter author?
4. Who hosted 'Countdown' from 2007 to 2008?
5. Which English town became the first to be twinned with Disney World?
6. What age was Edward VI when he became King of England?
7. What is featured on the stamps issued on Lundy Island?
8. Which phrase from Shakespeare was used to describe the winter of 1978–9 in the UK?
9. Chigwell is the setting for which show?
10. In which decade did the first Center Parcs holiday village open in the UK?

WORDSEARCH: ROYALTY

S	E	L	R	A	H	C	A	H	C	A	E	S	U	A	E
A	P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	A	B	K	T	B	A	C
J	A	S	H	J	N	D	S	O	R	N	T	R	E	V	A
C	U	T	C	O	R	N	A	N	A	N	E	E	H	A	L
O	A	B	A	H	T	E	B	A	Z	I	L	E	R	S	A
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MONARCH
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JUBILEE
WINDSOR
STREET PARTY
SEVENTY
QUEEN
CORGIS
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
PLATINUM
REIGN
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CROWN
CHARLES
SOVEREIGN

DINGBATS: ROYALTY

1. heard gut
2. tttttt ears
throne
3. Land
Football, Tennis, Chess, Rugby

MEET A LOCAL: VICKY BURT

Our own Rosemary Imroth had a good chat with fellow local and Evergreen Club member, Vicky Burt. Here's what she found out...



Vicky Burt

Vicky Burt has been at the core of Stanstead Abbots ever since she came here from Roydon in 1967. Stanstead Abbots was a totally different village then – shops on both sides of the road, lots of public houses and some factories that employed most of the local population. One of these was F. G. Burt at the Mill, the manufacturer of mirrors, secondary and double glazing, and all flat glassware. It was in this factory that Vicky thoroughly enjoyed her involvement in the financial department.

Vicky wed Jeremy, one of the six sons of Kenneth Burt, and proceeded to bring up their family, run the home, work in the factory, and especially create a magnificent garden in her spare time.

Time passed and the many shops closed one by one, sometimes due to new regulations, sometimes as the owners decided to retire, not to mention the ability of people to shop further away. The trains to the centre of London made a great change in the people who live in Stanstead Abbots – commuters rather than local descendants. The factories closed or reduced to specialising and the village became home to a totally different population with small knots of long-stay residents.

The primary school (St Andrew's) and the Parish Hall remain, and both have been and are very much at the core of the present Stanstead Abbots. Vicky is the upholder of the status of the Parish Hall as the central place for all local clubs, societies and general meetings. So many clubs and societies meet there: the Stanstead Abbots Local History Society, the Irish Dancing Club, Carpet Bowls, Table Tennis Club and the Evergreen Club. Vicky has become Joint Chairman of the Evergreen Club and can be seen every Monday transporting elderly members to and from the club, helping with the teas, running the monthly raffle, but she has not been able to come to terms with the Bingo automatic numbering machine!

Her garden, at Abbots House, was wonderful and was admired by all those lucky enough to see it. Vicky had invited the members of the Evergreen Club to enjoy a garden tea party there at least once a year in the summer and it was eagerly anticipated by the members, the more able of whom took great pleasure in wandering about and admiring the various different garden 'rooms'. My strongest memory of Vicky is during an Evergreen garden party: the sun became too hot for the ladies sitting around a table, so Vicky jumped onto the table and raised the sun-shade for them!

Sadly, Vicky has sold her house in Stanstead Abbots and is now moving to pastures new. She will be missed by all who knew her and we wish Vicky all the best for the future!



Vicky to the rescue at an Evergreen Garden Party!

The Three Villages Magazine

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Hertfordshire (www.walkinginengland.co.uk/herts) has hundreds of walks to download and print for free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said: 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Hertfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half-a-mile to twelve-miles-plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy. So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS PARISH HALL TABLE TENNIS CLUB

If you are interested in trying something different, please consider table tennis! Our club meets twice a week at the Parish Hall in Roydon Road (next to St Andrew's School) and is open to all adults.

Friday afternoons from 2pm to 3.30pm is our well-established session, which started under the auspices of EHDC's Forever Active initiative, encouraging over 50s to be more active. As well as table tennis there is usually time for a chat, so it is a social occasion as well. Many of us played a little in our youth – and two of our members who used to play in a club years ago have met up again after many years!

Thursday evenings from 7.30pm is our 'Club Night', and we have two teams playing in the local league this season. It would be great if some more experienced players would join us!

All abilities are welcome, at both sessions, and all equipment is provided. The cost is £3 per session, and your first session is free! Please wear suitable shoes and a dark top.

For further information, please call 07841 583265 or email saphttc@yahoo.com.

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS & DISTRICT EVERGREEN CLUB – THE EVERGREENS



Jean Mills

I had great pleasure in interviewing Jean Brown who has been a member for many years. I picked her because she was born and bred in Stanstead Abbots, and at the age of 88 is still going strong.

Jean Millicent Mills was born in 1933 and lived in South Street. She went to school at St Andrew's, next to the Parish Hall, and after school worked in various locations in the village, especially in the Co-op during war-time rationing where she had to weigh and bag up sugar. She whispered to me that she ate dried prunes while working and kicked the stones out of sight under the counter! At a later date Jean used to cycle to Wormley to work in a grocer's shop. In due course she became Mrs Brown, and mother to Kevin and Susan who both went to her old school, St Andrew's. Her third child Darren, born in 1973, went to St John the Baptist School in Great Amwell. Jean now lives in the Folly Estate and is great friends with her neighbours, who also attend the Evergreen Club.

We thoroughly enjoyed the singing and stories provided by Alan Hiscock who entertained us in April. Thank you, Alan, and please come again. The Evergreens meet every Monday afternoon from 2–4pm and most members play Bingo with much hilarity and, I must confess, for MONEY! (I think it is 5p a game!) The cost is £1.50 each week, which includes a cup of tea, bread and butter, and cake. We would be delighted to welcome new members. Transport can be arranged, but we are desperate for more volunteer drivers. For further information, or to find out about becoming a volunteer driver, please contact Ann Hardy on 01920 870526.

Rosemary Imroth

REGULAR CLUBS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS IN THE THREE VILLAGES

1st Stanstead Abbots Brownies: Mondays 5.45–7pm (Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall) for girls aged 7 to 10 years. Guider in charge: Helen Payne (01920 462676).

Great Amwell Scout Group: Squirrels: boys and girls aged 4–5 years old, Beavers: boys and girls aged 6–8 years old, Cubs: boys and girls aged 8–10½ years old, Scouts: boys and girls aged 10½–14 years old. All groups meet at Scout HQ, 142 London Road, Ware SG12 9NH. For details visit www.greatamwellscouts.org.uk or call 01920 320142.

1st Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets Scout Group: Age groups as above. All groups meet at Scout HQ, Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbots SG12 8QT. For details visit www.stansteadabbottsscouts.org.uk or follow on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Bingo for the over 60s: Every Friday 2.30–4pm in Folly View Community Centre. New players welcome, just turn up.

Evergreen Club: Every Monday afternoon 2–4pm at the Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall. Transport can be arranged. Contact: 01920 870526 (Ann Hardy).

Great Amwell Women's Club: Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday 7.30–10pm at the Parish Hall, Great Amwell. Club Secretary: Dulcie Fordham. Contact number for enquiries: 01920 466689 (Christine).

Herts Wheelers (Cycling Club): Weekly Sunday club rides for various abilities normally starting in Ware. Contact membership@herts-wheelers.org.uk.

The Amwell Society: Quarterly talks in the Parish Hall, Great Amwell, as well as trips, walks and activities locally. For details of membership contact William Brown on 01920 872450 (Chairman).

Stanstead Abbots Local History Society: Chairman, Bob Hunt. Regular meetings for both members and non-members. For details visit: www.salhs.org.uk. For membership details email: admin@salhs.org.uk.

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club: A friendly club with social sessions on Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturday and Sunday mornings, plus a junior section, coaching available, and opportunity to play match tennis in local leagues. For details contact: secretary@stmargaretsburytennis.co.uk or come along to a social morning.

'Armchair Singers' for everyone: A chance to eat, drink, sing and quiz all in one afternoon. Fun, fun, fun. Held in the Nigel Copping Community Centre every Monday 1.30–3.30pm. Singing for health and well-being. All ages welcome. For more details please contact Gabby Hanley on 07875 221543.

St Margaretsbury Football Club: The Recreation Ground, Station Road, St Margarets (near Stanstead Abbots). A Chartered Standard local football club for Youth, Ladies' and Men's football, with youth starting from 6 years upwards in non-competitive leagues, and more competitive as they move up into Under 18s', Ladies' and Men's Football. Contact: Club Secretary at <https://stmargaretsburyfc.leaguerepublic.com/contacts.html>.

Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall Table Tennis Club: A friendly club meeting on Friday afternoons from 2pm, and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm with the opportunity to play in local leagues. For further details please call 07841 583265 or email saphttc@yahoo.com – or just come along!

If you would like to add a club, group or meeting to this list, please send details to print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

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1ST STANSTEAD ABBOTTS & ST MARGARET'S SCOUT GROUP



Celebrations at Stanstead Abbots Scout Group



The first Squirrels Drays making their Promise

The 1st Stanstead Abbots and St Margaret's Scout Group welcomed eleven new members on Friday 1st April during an afternoon of celebrations.

Having successfully kept the Scout Group going throughout the pandemic, the Group has been able to open the first Squirrel Dray section in the area, for girls and boys aged 4–5 years. After four weeks of trying out Squirrels, eleven girls and boys were formally invested into the Group by their Squirrel Scout Leader, Lucy Isham, in front of parents, carers, other Scout Group volunteers and guests.

Group Scout Leader Paul Stretch said,

'We are delighted to be expanding our provision to 4–5 year olds in our local community and see so many girls and boys coming along to join the Group, and especially now. The last two years have been very difficult for our young people and the impact on under 5s, especially so.'

We know that as a Scout Group we have been able to support our members, adults and children alike, over the last two years with online and face-to-face sessions when permitted and are excited to have so many girls and boys taking the opportunities we offer them, to gain skills for life, make friends and have fun.'

Chair of Trustees, Gavin Miles, who was watching the event, said,

'After the recent refurbishment, the HQ looks completely refreshed and ready to welcome our 150 girls and boys each week, and now our Squirrels too. The new colour scheme, kitchen refit and electrical upgrade were all very generously funded by French & Jupps and we are enormously grateful for the ongoing and very generous support.'

The Squirrels have just completed their Go Wild badge, which included meeting animals from Safari Pete's Wildlife Experience and making bird feeders and mini habitats, and are starting on their Brilliant Builder badge next. Meanwhile the girls and boys in our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts sections are all enjoying their programmes of fun, challenges and learning new skills, both at HQ and out-and-about.



Congratulations to the new members

As always, adult volunteers are crucial to these activities continuing for our young people, so if you would like to find out more about volunteering with the Group, please visit stansteadabbottsscouts.org.uk.

1st Stanstead Abbots & St Margaret's Scout Group

1ST STANSTEAD ABBOTTS BROWNIES

Girlguiding enables girls to be their best and face the challenges of growing up today. We've been doing that through adventure, friendship and fun for over 100 years. Within our three villages and the surrounding areas, Girlguiding has long been active and is going strong!

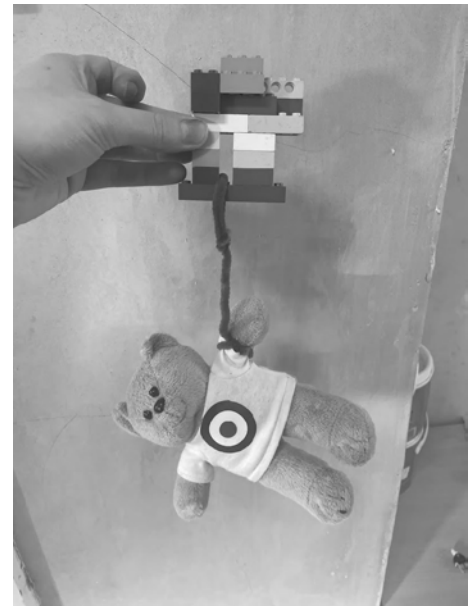
Girlguiding provides a fantastic opportunity for girls from the age of four upwards to learn, grow and have amazing adventures together. Within our villages, 1st Stanstead Abbotts Brownies meets 5.45–7pm on Mondays at Stanstead Abbotts Parish Hall. Brownies is for girls aged 7 to 10 years.

We asked Helen Payne, Guider in Charge, to tell us what the Brownies have been getting up to...

'This term, 1st Stanstead Abbotts Brownies have been learning about some inspirational famous women and having lots of fun! We made a robot that drew pictures and talked about Ada Lovelace. We celebrated Chinese New Year (year of the tiger) and talked about the author Judith Kerr. We had a self-portrait night and drew in the style of Frida Kahlo. We also got to drive The Van Hage's Train, made teddy zip wires and had an Easter egg hunt. We have been meeting at the Parish Hall, but are looking forward to getting back to The Wilshere Hall once it has reopened to the public. Historically, we have had a Guide unit in Stanstead Abbotts and would love to be able to offer that again, along with a Rainbow unit, but we are in need of volunteers!'

As a voluntary organisation, we rely on our Leaders and Unit Helpers giving their time and talents for free. It is a fantastic opportunity to give something back to our community and also to be an active part in helping the next generation flourish. It is also good fun! If you are interested in volunteering, check out www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved or contact Helen Payne (01920 462676).

For more information about Girlguiding in Hertfordshire, please visit www.girlguidinghertfordshire.org.uk/get-involved



Teddy riding the home-made zip wire



Belle showing the robot's artwork



A drawing robot built by the Brownies



Ella using the drawing robot

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VOLUNTEERING FOR CANAL & RIVER TRUST

It's been over four years since a small group of local volunteers signed up with Canal & River Trust (CRT) to become moorings rangers. Historically, this was as a result of some anti-social behaviour along the riverbank one summer, which was affecting the daily lives of not just land dwellers, but also those who enjoy the quiet life living on the river.

Our role is a simple one, but over time we have extended our volunteering activities. It's not just limited to recording on a regular basis the boats that are moored along a designated stretch of the Lea. We also report fly-tipping along the towpath, help CRT with signage installation, liaise with CRT over any queries that are raised with us and keep the local Parish Council updated of our work. Currently we are in contact with CRT regarding the quality of accessibility to the towpath and asking that specific areas are reviewed for improvement.

We were aware that our presence at the outset was not met with positivity with the minority, and we are probably still seen a little like 'marmite' to some. However, feedback has given us the reassurance that we are doing something good, and we will continue our work to ensure that we are all able to live alongside each other in a peaceful and happy way.



If anyone would like to join our volunteering group, and we would very much welcome more help, please contact Jamal Thomas (Jamal.Thomas@canalrivertrust.org.uk). If you have any questions or queries, then you can email local councillor, C. Maynard (clare.stmargaretspc@gmail.com).



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June 2022



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Residents can also sign up to receive OWL messages by email via the website owl.co.uk/herts

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Parish Council Clerk: Mr Jeff Hughes
greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com

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Parish Council Clerk: Ms Christina Whellams 07422 582172

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Great Amwell 01920 870135

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Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall: Mrs Vicky Burt 07703 402790
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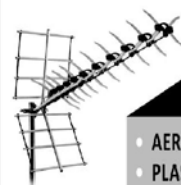
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PUZZLE ANSWERS (from Page 12)

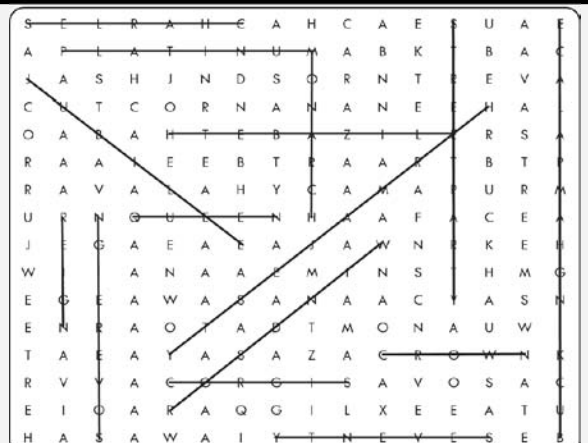
QUIZ

1. Daisy, Violet and Rose
2. The Secret Seven
3. Joanne Kathleen
4. Des O'Connor
5. Swindon
6. Nine
7. A Puffin
8. Winter of Discontent (Richard III)
9. Birds of a Feather
10. 1980s (1987)

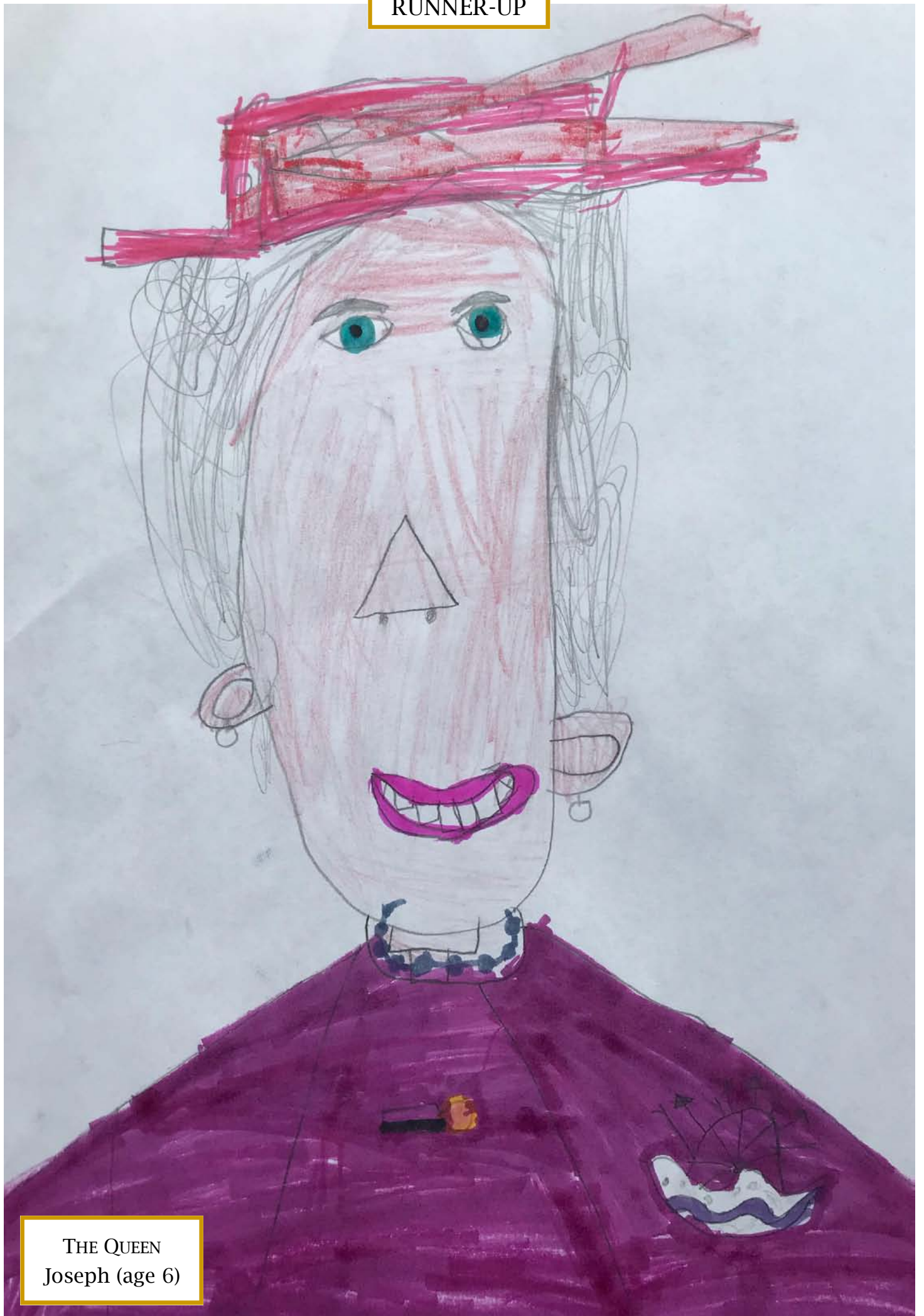
DINGBATS

1. Changing of the Guard
2. Seventy years on the throne
3. Highland Games

WORDSEARCH



RUNNER-UP



THE QUEEN
Joseph (age 6)

WINNER: 2nd



THE QUEEN
Oscar (age 9)