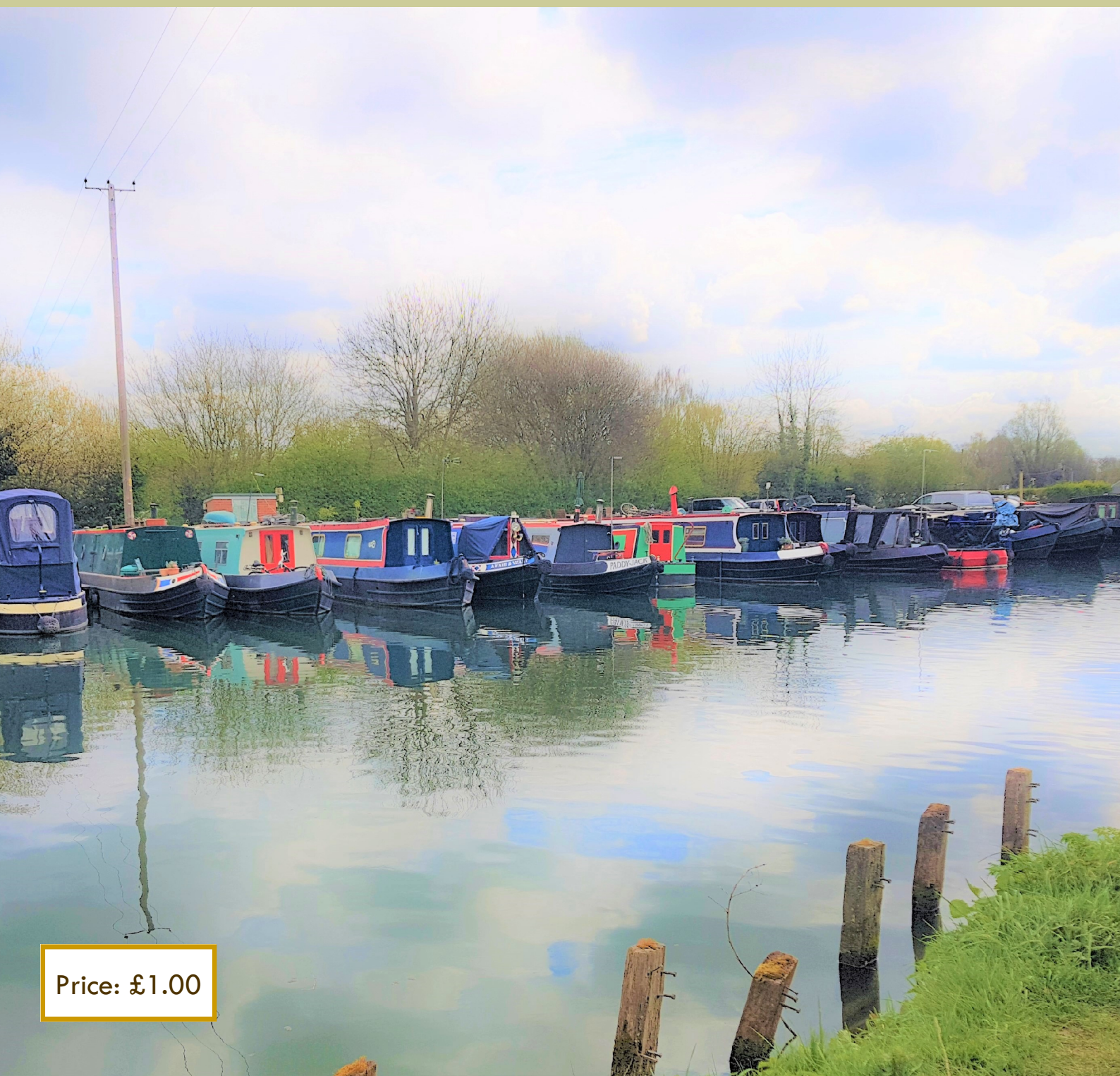




The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS



Price: £1.00

Issue 6

June 2023





The Three Villages Magazine

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From the Editor...



Cover: Rainbow River
© Gary Forrest

Welcome to the June Issue of our magazine! 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 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.

Within this issue, along with our regular items, we have an exciting new series focusing on Local Historic Faces & Places that have had a significant impact on our villages, some wonderful images from your coronation celebrations back in May, a Summertime 'Flash Fiction' Writing Competition and much more!

The magazine is issued quarterly with publication in March, June, September and December. If you would like to contribute to forthcoming issues this year, the deadlines are 4th July (September Issue) and 3rd October (December Issue). Please send all submissions 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 an image by Gary Forrest. Having moved to the three villages in 2020, Gary has enjoyed taking photographs of the local area, including this wonderful image of the river. If you would like to enter your work for the next cover, please send your photograph(s) to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

Continued thanks are offered to Willowthorpe Care Home, our kind sponsors. We have also been kindly supported by a grant from East Herts Council.

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.

Thank you for your continued support.

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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FROM THE VICAR



The Coronation of our King Charles III has brought into focus thoughts and questions about the Monarchy, revealing a wide range of responses from enthusiastic Royal-watching to Republican opposition. It has been over 70 years since we last had a coronation, and our world has changed immensely in that time. What kind of king do we need? Do we need one at all? How do we feel about the new and changing Monarchy in these difficult times? Is it all about wealth and privilege and irrelevant now, or an important part of our history that remains central to our identity and culture?

Luke records this conversation about kings between Jesus and his disciples at the end of The Last Supper. As night falls, Jesus is thinking about the suffering and death that he has set his face towards; the time has come. But the disciples are arguing about who is the greatest among them...

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.'

(Luke 22:24–27)

God is central to the Coronation Service for our new king, from the presentation of the Bible and the Oaths that he makes, to the prayers and the anointing with holy oil. The Christian faith is woven into the whole Coronation, and in particular there is a recognition that the role of king is a calling from God. Although on the one hand Charles was born to this calling, there is also a clear sense that he can choose to accept or decline it. King Edward VIII described the burden of the calling as too heavy to bear when he abdicated.

So how will King Charles III respond to this calling; this role in the service of God? He has had a long apprenticeship, watching his late mother rule wholeheartedly. Queen Elizabeth II knew that to rule in God's kingdom you must serve others. Service is 'love in action'. I believe that our new king will do everything he can to fulfil his calling, in his own way, with his particular gifts. As we have prepared to celebrate the Coronation, we have been praying for our king in his service to our nation, our commonwealth and our world. The prayers in the Coronation Service itself are filled with requests for God to strengthen and resource our new king.



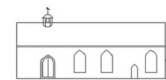
The Coronation has also been a reminder that we are called to service too; called to 'love in action'. Whether that service is for the God we recognise and serve or for our community, loving your neighbour finds its fulfilment in serving others. To have a heart for service means to lay aside the desire to be the greatest. This is not easy to do in a world where being the best and brightest and most beautiful is so highly prized, but thankfully we keep working on it!



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



St John the Baptist
Great Amwell



St Mary the Virgin
St Margarets



St Andrew
Stanstead Abbots

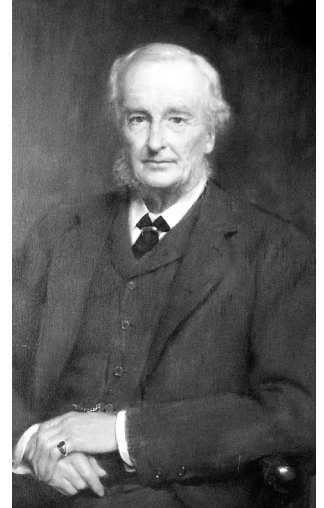
The 3 Churches Benefice

LOCAL HISTORIC FACES & PLACES: THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON (1822–1908)

Our new series focuses on the eminent faces and places that have played key roles in the history and development of our local life. We begin with someone who was probably the greatest benefactor of all: Thomas Fowell Buxton. No Thomas Fowell Buxton means no St Andrew's Church, no St Andrew's School, no Parish Hall, no model farm dwellings along Cappell Lane, no drinking troughs, no Reading Room... Quite a legacy to leave behind!

Thomas took over from his father both his Christian charitable commitments and the role of Managing Director of the largest brewery in Europe – Truman, Hanbury & Buxton. Some have queried how such a devout Christian family could be involved in the business of brewing. But at the time, porter (beer) was seen as a healthy alternative to the cheap gin that caused so much drunkenness and resulting social problems.

Thomas lived in Leytonstone, but his growing family gave him reason to look elsewhere. By 1866 Thomas made the decision to move from the outskirts of ever-growing London to rural Hertfordshire. He bought 3000 acres of land bordering the eastern edge of Ware and extending to our village of Stanstead Abbots. He then commissioned the Quaker architect Alfred Waterhouse (Natural History Museum, etc.) to design a mansion for him and his family on Easneye hill. In 1868, at the age of 46, Thomas moved his family into Easneye Mansion with 19 inside staff and 10 outside employees; that's a lot of employment for local folk. Thereafter, he played a key role in village life even while he carried on running the brewery in London by using the recently opened Buntingford line each day.



Thomas Fowell Buxton
(1821–1908).
Courtesy of All Nations
Christian College,
Easneye Mansion.
(Photo: Brian Johnson)

Thomas did not waste any time in getting involved in local benevolent activity. On 17th February 1869, less than a year after moving in, he was involved in the opening of an elementary school in Stanstead Abbots. He gave a plot of land, hired Alfred Waterhouse to design the building and also contributed substantial financial support towards the total cost of £1495. (This is now the old wing of our St Andrew's Primary school). He also gave substantial help in solving the problem of the location of the village parish church. The original parish church, dedicated to St James, was situated well away from the village on the hill by Stanstead Bury. Buxton commissioned architect Zephaniah King to design a new church, which was built in Cappell Lane. Two years later, in 1883, Buxton paid for the building of the Parish Room in the village, which then housed the British Workman Club of which he was the President. The club was open from 5.30am to 10.00pm every weekday, supplying hot tea and coffee to its members plus newspapers and books. It was an incredibly enlightened social service open to all local folk who could pay the 6d per month fee. The list of Christian charities and missionary societies of which Buxton was a Trustee or member would, literally, fill two pages and he was generous to all of them. He also served a year as High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, as well as being a magistrate.

Sport was a key element in Buxton's life. He had a grass tennis court where visitors joined in competitive matches! He also had a Fives Court built. But it was cricket that was his main interest. He served as President of St Margaretsbury Cricket Club and invited the club to play their games on the Easneye pitch when other sites proved unavailable.

His life continued as a successful business man, a prize-winning farmer, a generous employer but, above all, he was a committed Christian. His faith was the anchor of his life and in all things he sought to serve God with all his resources and abilities. It was for this reason that he had emblazoned on several properties he owned the family text 'Do It With Your Might' (taken from Ecclesiastes 9:10).

On 27th January 1908, Thomas passed away, just three years after his wife. They had enjoyed nearly sixty years of married life, and Thomas had lived at Easneye for close on forty years. An era had undoubtedly come to an end. A black-and-white photo reveals the cortege enroute to St James – it is surrounded by not just the family, but scores of workers and villagers who walked beside it all the way to Stanstead Bury for the interment. Truly a well-lived and well-respected life.

Bob Hunt, Chair of Stanstead Abbots Local History Society

The Three Villages Magazine

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III



Saturday 6th May marked a very special event that not many of us had witnessed before: the coronation of new British monarch. The Coronation of King Charles III was a significant day within our three villages, around the country, even round the world!

There were a number of events organised across the three villages during the long weekend and we have chosen to celebrate these wonderful moments on the wraparound cover of our magazine. It was fantastic to see people coming together to commemorate this momentous event.

Thank you to everyone who organised or helped run these events for our community. It ensured that we were able to get together with our neighbours and make some special memories. Thanks also to those who shared their wonderful photographs: Emma and Holly Brown, Gary Forrest, Sarah Forrest, Lynne Griffiths, Gabby Hanley, Clare Maynard, Sarah Neighbour and Liz Nicholls.

MAKE LUNCH CLUB

Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) is a Christian charity whose aim is to help young people and their families through the local church. At a fund-raising dinner, in July 2022, the story of Joe was screened. His Mum was struggling with household bills and the family were often short of food. They were invited to a Make Lunch Club during the school holidays where they were treated to a hot meal and dessert free of charge. This 8-year-old described how he had met other children of his age and thoroughly enjoyed going. This provided the inspiration to try and launch a Make Lunch Club in our community.

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest, Priest in Charge of The 3 Churches Benefice, immediately warmed to the idea and manoeuvred it through the St Andrew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) last November. A Partnership Agreement was signed between TLG and St Andrew's Church. A core team of 5 volunteers undertook the training programme; all were vetted and DBS checked. We now have an amazing team of 10 volunteers who offer their friendship and skills.

Make Lunch Club was launched on 3rd April in the Easter Holidays. At our last session on Friday 14th April we had 19 people made up of 10 children, 5 parents and 4 helpers. We served jacket potatoes, sausages, cheese and beans followed by sticky toffee pudding with ice cream. We finished off with an Easter egg hunt in the church!

Our mission is to provide fun activities and a hot meal for all the family twice a week (usually on Mondays and Fridays) during the school holidays for any family that needs them, and to establish a community where people are valued and welcomed. Make Lunch Club will be running in the summer holidays: Monday 24th July, Friday 28th July, Monday 31st July, Friday 4th August, Tuesday 8th August, Friday 11th August, Monday 14th August, Friday 18th August, Monday 21st August and Friday 25th August. If you have any questions or would like to join us, please do get in touch.

Robert Pulford, Make Lunch Coordinator
07966721327 / Makelunch@3churches.net



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).

Since the last update:

- * At the Local Elections in May, nine candidates submitted valid nomination forms by the deadline. As there were fewer candidates than total seats to be filled, all were elected in an unopposed election. The remaining vacancy will now be filled by the Parish Council through a co-option process.
- * following representations made to the District Council on the use of the green belt land off Amwell Roundabout for car boot sales and music festivals, the Parish Council has ascertained that current permitted development allows for 28 days of use of this site together with an additional 12 days specifically for car boot sales (i.e. 40 days in total);
- * East Herts Council had confirmed that it intended to cease providing financial support to Parish Councils to undertake litter bin emptying activities in their areas; with effect from 1st April 2023, East Herts Council is responsible for emptying all litter bins within the parish;
- * the Parish Council requested the Headteacher at St John the Baptist School to remind parents of all pupils of the need to maintain road safety in Hillside Lane and the ability to park elsewhere in the vicinity of the school; in response, the Headteacher advised that the school regularly reminded parents about courteous driving alongside Hillside Lane and were encouraged to 'park and stride'.

Details of your parish councillors and recent copies of meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the website (<https://gtamwellpc.org>). 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. You may also wish to contact the District Council directly (<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/contactusform>).

St Margarets Parish Council

The Parish Council is currently working with East Herts District Councils (EHDC) Land Management Department to discuss hedgerow planting in the field just off Sanville Gardens, and their Woodland Creation Projects Officers are currently advising us on the best trees and shrubs to use.

We are in discussion with a local street artist and EHDC about decorating the pillars under the A414 flyover to deter graffiti and create something that is aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

We are liaising with the Ware and Stanstead Abbots Neighbourhood Team to deal with the anti-social behaviour and drug paraphernalia that is taking place in the area.

The Parish Council has signed up to the Armed Forces (AF) Covenant; a declaration committing us to uphold the covenant and support the AF community. More details about the pledge can be found on our website (www.stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.org.uk).

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

The Parish Council held two volunteering events in March and April: a litter pick on Saturday 25th March organised with the Wombles of Ware Abots and a Volunteer Workday on Saturday 1st April. 20 bags of litter were collected on 25th March and we want to thank everyone who helped to achieve this. We received lots of positive comments on Facebook about what a difference the volunteers made. We hope to make this a regular event. At our workday on 1st April we had more people litter picking and we would like to thank 1st Stanstead Abbots & St Margarets Scout Group for all their help.

We always need volunteers to help with events, litter picking and some minor maintenance work in the village playground, so if you would like to be added to our volunteer mailing list please email clerk@stansteadabbotsparishcouncil.gov.uk with your details and we will add you to the list.

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

The Three Villages Magazine

MEET A LOCAL: NIGEL COPPING



The name of Nigel Copping is, for most local people, synonymous with our three villages and for very good reason.

Nigel was born in 1932 at Cole Green, Panshanger in Hertfordshire and was one of five children. His family originated from Suffolk and had always been nurserymen, travelling the great distance to Covent Garden to sell their flowers and plants. Nigel's paternal grandfather decided in the early 1900s to relocate somewhere nearer to London and so purchased 20 acres of land at Hailey Lane and began his nursery, with Nigel's father working alongside. Around the same time one of Nigel's uncles also moved closer and purchased land in Dane End, and he too began his nursery business. In 1943 when Nigel was 11 years of age his father and mother purchased a piece of land in Stanstead St Margarets along with the house that the family moved into, and which is still Nigel's home to this day. Nigel stated that he was expected to work with his father in the nursery from the time they relocated to Stanstead St Margarets and by the time he was 16 years old he had to leave school and work full time in the family business.

When in 1966 Nigel's father died, Nigel took over the business and ran it successfully for many years until his own retirement. When Nigel retired and sold off the land for the houses we now know in Sanville Gardens, he also used a large amount of his own money to see the building of the Community Centre, which is proving such an asset to the area. Nigel has spent his whole adult life committed to helping others. He was a councillor for Hertfordshire County Council for many years and a councillor for East Herts District Council for 28 years, where he was also elected for a term as Alderman with his sister June at his side when carrying out the many and varied functions. He became a parish councillor in 1966 when he was elected after his father's death and is still an active member to the present day.

Nigel was for many years a governor of Hailey Hall School and also Treasurer of St Margarets Parish Church for 16 years until 2014. For many years Nigel decorated the church with his beautiful flowers every Saturday in readiness for the Sunday service and always purchased lilies at Easter, as well as various flower arrangements throughout the year for special events – namely our biannual flower festivals and Christmas tree festivals. For thirty years he also bought the delicious cakes for folk to eat at the regular Saturday coffee mornings, and everyone who ever attended can vouch for those; in fact it was possibly the highlight of the morning along with his homemade sausage rolls.

Nigel stated that the thing he most enjoys about being part of the three villages is that he can help others and without a doubt he certainly has done that over his lifetime in ways too numerous to mention here. Sadly since COVID Nigel isn't as active as he once was, but having said that he is still always ready to help and assist in any way he can. Nigel always has a friendly smile and a cheerful word for all.

Nigel you are a very humble, kind and generous individual. Thank you for all you have done for our villages and for the surrounding areas. May you have many more years to enjoy with us.

Lyn Paddon



Don't forget to sign up to our **News & Events Blog** at www.thethreevillages.com or follow us on **Facebook** to get all the latest up-to-date information about what is happening in the three villages.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: LAVELLE'S

Luke LaVelle founded his barbers combined with the ladies' salon in Stanstead Abbotts' High Street seven years ago. The shop had previously been known as Vintage Rock and when that business moved to Hoddesdon, Luke and his long-standing friend Daisy took it over and gave it a complete refurbishment.

Luke spent part of his childhood in Cappell Lane, Stanstead Abbotts – conveniently close to St Andrew's Primary School – before he moved to Spain for several years. He returned to live in Hunsdon in a house built by his Dad. Luke had always wanted to own and manage a hair salon since the days when he worked as a Saturday boy at the age of 13 in Andalucia. Luke became fluent in Spanish 'small-talk' and skilled in hairdressing.

On his return to the UK Luke worked at a barbers in Harlow, completed his apprenticeship in a ladies' salon before working at the barbers in the High Street. When the shop next door became available it was an ideal opportunity for Luke to fulfil his ambition of owning and managing his own combined gents' and ladies' hair salon: a traditional barbers at the front and a ladies' salon more discreetly located behind.

For five years Luke also owned a salon in Potters Bar, but he feels quite pleased now to be concentrating on the one salon in Stanstead Abbotts, which has recently expanded. COVID brought new challenges to an employer who clearly is very caring about his staff and well in tune with the needs of his customers. Luke has a young team and feels this chimes with many of his younger customers whose conversation is more about gaming than a typical customer of his own age who is more keen to exchange thoughts about mortgages than entertainment. Some of Luke's long-standing customers from Potters Bar still travel from there to have their hair cut in Stanstead Abbotts and he has one customer who comes all the way from Norfolk! Luke believes his insistence on charging a fair fee for the styling he offers is the reason why he has such loyal clients – he sees no reason to charge outlandish amounts that people often can't afford. The competitive prices mean customers keep returning. The frequent queues in the shop are evidence of this!

Luke keeps the salon looking modern and cared for by initiating refits now and again. He would like to train hairdressers himself with no input from college as he is a great believer in enabling young people to have good careers as qualified barbers. Luke recognises that there are plenty of opportunities these days, on ships for example, for barbers to have interesting and fulfilling careers.

In his leisure time, Luke is an enthusiastic Freemason. He describes the Freemasons as the second largest charity organisation in the world and is very proud that his local 'Lodge', like every other, donates money without ever asking anyone to give money. It's good to know that LaVelle's is supporting charities as well as providing jobs and opportunities for young people in our village – and providing a valuable service!



Barbers (above) and Ladies' Salon (below)



Follow on Facebook (@LaVellesHair) or on Instagram (@lavelles_salon)
See their website: <http://www.lavellessalon.co.uk/>

Julia Davies

The Three Villages Magazine

SUMMERTIME 'FLASH FICTION' WRITING COMPETITION

We have teamed up with local author, Annette Hannah, to run a 'flash fiction' writing competition this summer. Annette's latest book, *Lottie's Little School of Dance*, is due to publish shortly. It follows Lottie as she starts a new life in Bramblewood (a setting inspired by our local area). We invite our local writers to pick up a pen or boot-up their laptops and get writing!



There are just a few rules! Entries must be:

- * 500 words maximum;
- * fiction in the form of prose (not poetry) that describes imaginary events and people;
- * within a 'summertime' theme;
- * written by locals aged 18+ living within the three villages or with strong links to the three villages.

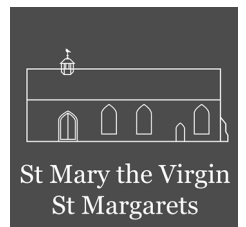
The winning entry will be published in the September Issue of The Three Villages Magazine and the winning writer will receive a signed copy of Annette's latest novel!

Please send entries to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com or post to 53 Lawrence Avenue, Stanstead Abbots, Herts. SG12 8TY. The competition **deadline is 4th July!** We look forward to reading your entries. Ready, steady... write!

NEWS FROM THE 3 CHURCHES BENEFICE

St Margarets' Parish Church Project Works

St Margarets' Parish Church, being over a thousand years old, is one of our historic churches in the three villages and it houses a musical gem! The organ, originally a concert organ, is the only Allen barrel organ to survive its original mechanism. I recently applied for a listing of the organ and I can now report that we have been awarded Grade 1 listing. Unfortunately, the organ is in need of restoration. I have been able to secure a quote for £5000 and although we have a little money towards it we are praying for donations to meet the total cost to enable this work to be carried out.



If you are able to help and would like to make a donation to help save this amazing instrument, our bank details are Bank: Nat West; Account: 26487098; Sort code: 60-11-11.

Being such a historic church means that aside from the restoration of the organ, there are also a number of other works that need completing in order to ensure the preservation of the church for the future. We have to raise £43,000 for rendering work needed in both the inside of the west end of the church and externally to the east end of the building. We also need a drainage channel to be installed externally at the west end as we have a great deal of damp that needs to be dealt with as soon as we can raise the funds.

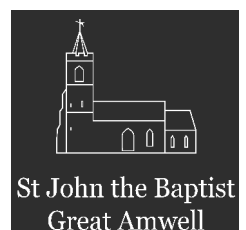
If you are able to make a donation towards these vital repairs, it would be greatly appreciated. Every little helps!

Lyn Paddon, Churchwarden

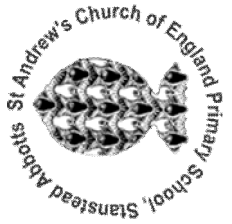
St. John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell

In July and August, on Sunday afternoons between 3 and 5 pm, the historic church of St John the Baptist will be open for refreshments. For many years prior to COVID-19, the church was open for summer Sunday afternoon teas, organised by former churchwarden, the late Julia Brace. This year the opening and the refreshments will be in her memory. Please do come along and join us.

Richard Mellor, Churchwarden



UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



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

We completed our spring term with an amazing Year 3 and 4 Easter Production of *The Tale of Three Trees*. While on the surface this is a simple tale of the fortunes of three trees, it has a greater depth, following the life of Jesus, which the children conveyed wonderfully. The delivery of their lines and enthusiastic singing made it a really joyful performance.



Alongside the necessary summer statutory testing (end of Key Stage 1 and 2 tests, Year 1 phonics test and the Year 4 multiplication test) we have also ensured that the children have had extensive, enriched curriculum opportunities. Year 4 visited Bedford to study and compare three places of worship: a Christian church, an Islamic mosque and a Sikh gurdwara. The staff and children all came away with a sense of wonder and an appreciation of how similar these three special places were in showing their love towards God and humankind. Other trips have included our Year 6 Residential trip in Wiltshire and, a more local trip, to study the artwork and sculptures of Henry Moore at his Studio at Much Hadham. Year 2 had an exciting day, exploring The Great Fire of London. As part of this they completed a range of activities, learning what life might have been like in those times. These activities included catching rats, writing on tablets, making bread and learning to make posies to ward off the plague.



In May we also celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III, by holding a special school picnic and a day full of royal activities. The children were all presented with a special coronation bookmark for them to remember the day.

And finally, to complete the school year we have our school Open Evening, our Year 5 and 6 Production and End of Year service to look forward to. How quickly the academic year passes.

Helen Gillingham
Head Teacher

The Three Villages Magazine

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School



Tournament
Leader



Medals at the Cross
Country Event

We have been busy competing in a number of sports competitions put on by the Hertford and Ware Schools Sports Partnership (HWSSP) this term. A team of children from Years 5 and 6 competed in the Sportshall Athletics Competition at Wodson Park. Our girls' team came fourth place and our boys' team won their event. All the children were very proud of their achievements.

Teams of children from Years 3 to 6 were keen to participate in the Cross Country competition at Hertford Rugby Club,

wanting to improve on the outcomes of the competition that took place in the autumn term. Bobby repeated his success in winning the Year 4 boys' race and Eden came third in the Year 6 boys' race, with the Year 5 and 6 boys' team coming third overall. In the District Football tournament, Nate won the award for Leader of the Tournament for his great communication skills and encouraging his team throughout their matches.

Our school choir enjoyed participating at the Hertford and Ware School Music Association's Music Festival. Performing as part of a mass choir of 160 pupils from six schools across Ware and Hertford was an exciting experience. In addition, they got to work with a nationally renowned conductor and the composer of the cantata 'Esther'. They also gave a wonderful performance of 'Stand by Me' as an individual choir.



Number hat competition winners

World Maths Day was marked with great excitement across the school. Our theme was Maths in the Real World and children were set challenges to calculate how much carpet would be needed to cover the floor in our newly refurbished Reception classroom; measure ingredients to cook delicious cakes and biscuits; and cost out the items needed to be purchased for an Easter Party. The children had the opportunity to enter a competition to create a number hat and staff were very impressed by the entries. They were also set the challenge of identifying a job in which maths skills are not used. So far this challenge remains open as every job they have suggested so far has been found to incorporate some aspect of maths.

Our Year 1 and 2 children opened their classrooms to parents for a castles exhibition. This provided parents with the opportunity to see the wonderful castles they had designed and built, as well as giving the children time to explain all they had learnt about castle life through their topic this term.

The term was rounded off with a wonderful performance from Years 4 and 5 of their Passion Play, *The Three Trees*. The children gave a moving performance of the events of Jesus' life from his birth, through his miracles, to his death and resurrection. Their performance skills and singing were at a high level.

It is not just our pupils that have been working hard this term. Our teachers have been busy re-designing our school curriculum. More information about this will be posted on the school website over the next term.

Lydia Hunt, Headteacher



Years 5 and 6 celebrating



The choir getting ready to
perform



Lead performers in
The Three Trees

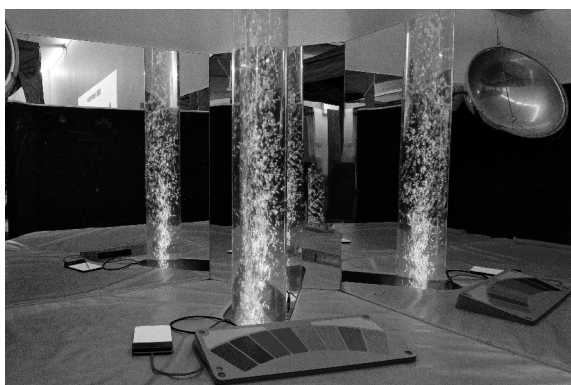
UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

Sensory Week

Amwell View School's Sensory Week was 6–10th February 2023. During the week all pupils have an opportunity to further develop their skills at a level that is appropriate to their individual needs and abilities by using sensory approaches to their learning.



The state-of-the-art sensory studio has four separate areas to learn in, containing switch operated bubble tubes, fibre optics, magic carpet and Opti-Music light beams. This allows pupils to develop their understanding of cause-and-effect and their ability to have control over their environment. A sensory circuit around the studio provides structure and routine for those pupils who need it.



Lisa Dillon, Sensory Lead, said: 'Pupils are more likely to engage in a lesson or an activity as there are multiple opportunities to notice, respond, engage, anticipate and communicate with what they are experiencing as their entire sensory system is being stimulated.'

A highlight of Amwell View School's Sensory Week was a visit by 'Music Machine' from the Electric Umbrella Company. Rachel Shipp, Head of Music, said: 'Electric Umbrella Company was set up to provide a platform for disabled people to perform, in their words "take to the stage". They provide workshops across Hertfordshire run by professional musicians. Our workshop had the theme of Hats, Cats and Cricket Bats. We gathered props for the pupils to explore and wear. The musicians provided us with a fantastic morning of interactive music, creating a bespoke performance using familiar songs and music. In the afternoon we took part in a live broadcast to other specials schools, presenting the music we had learnt during the morning workshop.'

Lisa Dillon, Sensory Lead, said: 'In classes, pupils had the opportunity to play games with Hats, Cats and Cricket Bats, with our bespoke jingles to sing along to. Each class was given a Sensory Toolkit to explore as a group. The kits included a large piece of fabric, squirty soap, survival blankets, balloons and crackling foot spray. The pupils had great fun exploring the contents and working out what they could do with the different items on themselves and with their peers.'



Janet Warrington,
School Business Manager

The Three Villages Magazine

PUZZLES FROM QUIZMASTER CATHAL BRENNAN

QUIZ: SCIENCE

1. Cu is which chemical element's symbol?
2. What term is used to describe a space void of air?
3. Of what is Petrology the study?
4. What is the sixth planet from the Sun?
5. In medical terms, what is hypotension?
6. What is measured in joules?
7. In renal failure, which organ is not working correctly?
8. What is the name for the scientific study of sound?
9. What does a mareograph record?
10. Which scientist said 'Life is like cycling a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving'?
11. How many bones do sharks have?
12. What is a material that will not carry an electrical charge called?



WORDSEARCH: CORONATION



CORONATION
KING CHARLES
SOVEREIGN
ORB
SUCCESSION
WESTMINSTER ABBEY
SPOON
REGALIA
REIGN
MONARCHY
SCEPTRE
SAINT EDWARD
QUEEN CONSORT
THRONE
CAROLEAN AGE

RIDDLES

1. What five-letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?
2. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I am even. What number am I?
3. Forward I am heavy, backward I am not. What am I?
4. You will find me in Mercury, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Uranus but never in Neptune or Venus. What am I?
5. A bus driver goes the wrong way down a one-way street. He passes the police, but they don't stop him. Why?

AMWELL ROTARY CLUB

Formed in 1980, the Rotary Club of Amwell is one of five Rotary Clubs in the Lea Valley. When people think of Rotary, they usually imagine a group of local businessmen who meet for lunch once a week. However, Rotary has changed enormously since our formation and we now have members of all genders, and many are commuters. Amwell Rotary Club meet in the evenings and another local club, Hertford Shires, has breakfast meetings. Across the UK, Rotary continues to recognise the need to change and has clubs for families, e-clubs and company-based clubs.

Amwell Rotary Club supports local and international charities. Locally we run an annual trip to Paradise Wildlife Park for the children of Middleton School; we also work with two other clubs to run the Ware Fireworks event, which raises significant funds. Monies raised are given to Disaster Relief funds such as the recent Turkish earthquake; provision of shelter and aqua boxes to disaster areas; and for over 30 years we have contributed to the Rotary International initiative to Eliminate Polio, which has seen polio cases reduced to just two countries. On the local front we donate to many charities including Carers in Herts, The Samaritans, Citizens Advice, The Salvation Army, Refuge, Herts Young Homeless, SPACE (a charity in Stansted Abbots that supports families of children with neurodiversity) and Always Bee You (a charity based in Ware supporting adults with learning difficulties).



Cheque presentation to Isabel Hospice & Herts MIND Network

Like many community service organisations our club has grown older and we need younger local people to work with us to keep our valuable community support continuing into the future. This doesn't have to mean joining Rotary and could be helping with a particular project that interests you. If you would like more information about Rotary in the area or how you could help, please contact secretary@amwellrotary.org.uk. Our website is www.amwellrotary.org.uk.

Vernon Benjafield, Secretary Amwell Rotary Club



SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS

Small Acts of Kindness is a registered charity aiming to reduce the negative impact that feeling lonely and isolated can have on an older person's physical and mental wellbeing, with a special interest in helping those who struggle to keep warm in their home. We do this by sourcing, packing and distributing practical gifts and information, working with over 350 volunteers and 100 partner organisations, connecting communities with kindness.

Our Warm in Winter gift bags are given FREE to those aged 55 and over and contain keep-warm items including a fleece blanket, thermal hat and gloves, hot drinks, porridge and soup, as well as our Purple Pages information pack full of literature signposting support, services and activities. To nominate someone for a gift bag, or to order one for yourself, please contact us at info@smallactsofkindness.co.uk, call 01923 372717 or via our website www.smallactsofkindness.co.uk.



We rely on the kindness and generosity of individuals, businesses and grants. If you'd like to know how you can help by joining our volunteer family, fundraising or to donate please get in touch.

**SMALL
ACTS OF
KINDNESS**
smallactsofkindness.co.uk
01923 372717

Small Acts of Kindness Trust (known as Small Acts of Kindness) is registered as a CIO with the Charity Commission, registration number 1178546. Registered office: 3rd Floor, 207, Regent Street, London, W1B 3HH.

Sarah Neighbour

The Three Villages Magazine

REGULAR CLUBS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS IN THE THREE VILLAGES

1st Stanstead Abbots Brownies: Mondays 5.45–7pm (The Wilshire 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: 07850458366 (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 07875221543.

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 07841583265 or email saphttc@yahoo.com – or just come along!

Carpet Bowls Club: Our Carpet Bowls club meets every Tuesday from 7pm in Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall. We are an all-inclusive sport, suitable for all ages and abilities. Our members range in age from 9 to 90. No need to bring any equipment, everything is provided. First night is free. Come along and give it a try! For more details contact Pete (Tel: 07429142525 / Email: pmcook1@hotmail.co.uk).

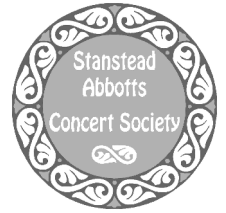
St Andrew's Church Card-making Group: We meet in The Wilshire Hall starting at 1pm on the first and third Tuesdays every month. The cost is £4 per session to cover materials used and two cards will be made each session. We have a break midway for refreshments, which is included in cost. New members welcome – please contact Janet Dance on 07941096834.

Just Friends: a group for widows, widowers and divorced or separated people. We meet as friends to support each other, arrange activities and share names of trusted tradespeople. Meeting every 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday. If interested, please contact Mary (maryhallett14@gmail.com / 07899861297 or 01920 870527).

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

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS CONCERT SOCIETY

The Stanstead Abbots Concert Society started in September 2016 as the Stanstead Abbots Ceilidh Society for the purpose of running monthly ceilidhs, otherwise known as barn dances. The Society was started by Rob, Beth and Linda Gifford, Nat Brookes, Leah Pybus and Lynne Heraud, all of whom have a life-long interest in traditional music and song, and are regular performers themselves. Rob, Beth and Nat also played at a lot of the dances in their band 'Take the Biscuit'. The Parish Council gave us a grant to help us get going, which was greatly appreciated.



The dances were fun but it was decided that every other month we would run a concert instead of a ceilidh and try to bring live folk music to Stanstead Abbots. They proved to be so popular that it was agreed to just do the monthly concerts. The audience is a mixture of ages with local people and folk enthusiasts. All the events take place in the Parish Hall on Roydon Road. It's a great atmosphere and audience numbers are anything from 50 to 80.

We were running very successful monthly concerts until COVID struck in March 2020. We started again in October 2022. As we are a not-for-profit organisation, we do not run a bar and people bring their own beer or wine, although soft drinks and snacks are available. Doors open at 7pm and the concerts start at 7.30pm. The evenings finish at 10pm. Tickets are £10. We regularly post our forthcoming programme and events on our Facebook page (search Stanstead Abbots Ceilidh Society).

We have had some wonderful performers over the years. Our next concert will be held on June 18th and features the fantastic 'Granny's Attic'. To get your tickets, please visit www.ticketsource.co.uk or call 01920 870558.

For further enquiries please contact Lynne Heraud on 07527796277 or email lynneheraud@yahoo.com.

Lynne Heraud

RINGING AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, GREAT AMWELL

The sound of bells ringing is part of British culture. Almost everyone in England lives within hearing range of bells. The first bell was installed in St John the Baptist, Great Amwell, in the sixteenth century (called 'Come all ye faithful') and two more in the seventeenth century ('Praise the Lord 1612' and 'Crown him Lord of all'). These bells were tolled with the bell down. Three more bells were installed in the 1950s ('George' and 'Elizabeth' in 1953 and 'Charles' in 1954) and with the original three now all hung with wheels, they can be rung full circle.

The photograph shows typical bells hung with wheels, the one on the left is down and the one on the right is up and ready to ring full circle. We have six bells so we need at least six ringers to be able to make the sound everybody knows.

Anyone can ring and you don't need to be a church member:

- * Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from ten to over eighty.
- * Many ring for the pleasure and company it brings, while others think of it as their contribution to church life.
- * You don't need to be strong, but it does provide physical and mental stimulation.
- * It is a skill for life. Once they have learnt, youngsters continue at University. Lapsed ringers can return after fifty years away and they haven't forgotten how to ring.
- * One ringer commented, 'When I'm ringing I forget all the tensions of the day. Even more, I couldn't wish for a better group of friends.'



So do come and see what is involved. You don't need to live in Great Amwell. We meet every Thursday at 7.30pm, but if this isn't convenient please still contact us.

Frances Adams (07876496654 or fmadams50@yahoo.co.uk)

The Three Villages Magazine

VILLAGE 'ANCIENT HISTORY' IN STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Celebrating and highlighting a number of important finds of our past, the Stanstead Abbots Local History Society (SALHS) committee, has proudly posted three 'Ancient Riverside Settlement' boards at points entering the village. This follows discoveries of fine flint tools in local gardens and also during the Websters Company-sponsored 50-strong village community archaeology dig in 2022 in the Roydon Road area. These finds prove that settlers arrived during the Middle Stone Age – at least 9,000 years ago!



French & Jupps: New Managing Director, Paul King, wishes to pass on congratulations and hopes the company will still be malting in the village in another 9,000 years time! (Left-right: Jamie Olsen, Conor Jones, Edward Hackett and Paul King).

Village life, then to now, has been based on the activities of trade; and in that same spirit local companies have come together to support this venture. SALHS wishes to thank Hometrend Plumbing of Lawrence Avenue, DJ Garage Services of Amwell Lane and long-time village company French & Jupps who are themselves celebrating 333 years in the malting business.

DJ Garage Services and French & Jupps have supported SALHS by also sponsored the cost of our 'Fallen WWI Heroes Boards' around the village.



DJ Garage Services: Proprietors Chris & Pippa Vince are happy to support the village History Society.

SALHS meets in Roydon Road Parish Hall every 2nd Friday each month, with interesting talks, from 7.30–9.30pm. Visit the website for more information on the village's past at www.SALHS.org.uk.

Bob Hunt, Chairman of SALHS

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL REUNION

St John the Baptist Primary School pupils circa 1947–1955 in the past have been very loyal and made our reunions happen at least several times since 1999. We now think this may be the last time that we're able to meet due to moving and circumstances.



The date of our last meeting will be Thursday June 8th 2023 at The George IV Pub, from 11.30/12noon. A walk around the village followed by some lunch is the usual format!

Please contact Jennifer on 01438 358404 or 07960381339 if you are able to come.

Looking forward to meeting one last time and exchanging all our memories!

Jennifer Searle

STANSTEAD ABBOTTS JUMBLE TRAIL

Stanstead Abbots Jumble Trail will be held on Saturday 24th June, 11am–3pm. A day of community spirit, active recycling and fundraising! Had a spring clear-out and don't know where to sell or donate your items? Use your driveway to sell or give away your unwanted things. Keep the cash or donate all or part of it to charity. **Register your address for £10 to be featured on the published jumble trail.** All the registration proceeds go to my son Jim's fundraising for a once-in-a-life-time ethical journey to Kenya in July 2024 with Camps International, where he will be participating in local community building activities. Sellers keep all the money from their sales.



Comment on our Facebook page **Stanstead Abbots Jumble Trail 24th June 2023** to register your interest as a seller or call Alice on 07731903181. Buyers just turn up!

Alice Maggs

WORKS AT THE RED LION

Back in November 2022, Judy and Martin became the new owners of The Red Lion in Stanstead Abbots. We noticed that they have been doing some work in the car park recently, so thought we'd ask them to fill us in!



THE RED LION
bar & kitchen

Judy was kind enough to satisfy our curiosity, saying: 'We have started work on creating a user-friendly space in the garden. It's a beautiful garden area that we hope will be enjoyed by everyone. Work is still going on but it will be ready for the summer. Here is a peak at the work we have done so far.'

Checking out these photos it is clear to see that, once finished, this will be a lovely outside space for everyone to enjoy. We look forward to seeing the finished results!



Are you struggling financially?
Are you worried about how you are coping?
Do you just need someone to listen?

Come and have a cuppa with us
and we'll see how we can help.

Every Wednesday, 10.30–11.30am
St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets
(on Hoddesdon Road)

MADRIGALS AT AMWELL POOL

The Haileybury Madrigal Singers
are performing at Amwell Pool
Lower Road, Great Amwell
9.00pm on Friday 23rd June

Collection is in aid of Isabel Hospice



The Three Villages Magazine

SPORTS

In Focus: St Margaretsbury Cricket Club



For those of you not familiar with the cricket club, we are located at the Recreation Ground on Station Road, where the annual fireworks display is held each year.

As a club, we have been in existence and associated with Stanstead Abbots since 1737, but unless you walk along the New River and cut through in the summer months I guess many residents of the three villages might not know too much about us.

The cricket season runs from late April until the start of September and we have cricket at the Recreation Ground every weekend. We run four men's teams competing in the Saracens Herts League on a Saturday, a Women's XI which play in the Home Counties Cricket League on a Sunday and we have a thriving junior section with over 100 youngsters playing cricket. They practise on a Sunday morning and games take place most evenings from late April until the end of June, ending as schools break up for the summer holidays.



Our Men's First Eleven play in Division One of the Herts League, a level below the Championship and Premier Divisions, so a very good standard. As a club we are entirely amateur and all of the players choose to pay to play at St Margaretsbury. We are an ambitious club and are keen to get into the higher divisions. One of the foundations of our success over the past few seasons has been investing in our youth programme, which is seeing many of the youngsters progressing into and performing well in the adult teams, so we are optimistic for the new season (although by the time this is published we will know if it was well-founded optimism or not!).

We are also very keen to grow our women's and girl's cricket, and are running free coaching sessions on Monday evenings for anyone keen to get into cricket. All abilities are very welcome.

The bar is open most weekends in the afternoons and in the evenings when matches are on, so do please try to come along for a drink and have a look at what goes on at the Recreation Ground during the summer.

You can also keep track on the clubs progress and fixtures via our website at www.stmcc.org.uk, by following us on Twitter @stmargsc, or by searching for stmargaretsburycricketclub on Instagram and Facebook.

Steven Ansell

St Margaretsbury Cricket Club Fixtures & Results

Shown below are the home fixtures for the rest of the season.

Please visit <https://stmcc.org.uk/LeagueResults.php> for all fixtures and results.



Saturday 1st XI – Hertfordshire League Division-One

03 Jun	St Margaretsbury	v	Letchworth Garden City
17 Jun	St Margaretsbury	v	Leverstock Green
01 Jul	St Margaretsbury	v	Amphill Town
08 Jul	St Margaretsbury	v	Luton Town & Indians
22 Jul	St Margaretsbury	v	Chorleywood
29 Jul	St Margaretsbury	v	Sawbridgeworth
12 Aug	St Margaretsbury	v	Langleybury
26 Aug	St Margaretsbury	v	Hitchin

Saturday 2nd XI – Hertfordshire League Division-Seven-A

10 Jun	St Margaretsbury II	v	Pinner
24 Jun	St Margaretsbury II	v	Bushey II
15 Jul	St Margaretsbury II	v	Old Cholmeleians
05 Aug	St Margaretsbury II	v	Radlett IV
19 Aug	St Margaretsbury II	v	Ware
02 Sep	St Margaretsbury II	v	Northwood Town II

Saturday 3rd XI – Hertfordshire League Division-10-East

10 Jun	St Margaretsbury III	v	Datchworth III
24 Jun	St Margaretsbury III	v	Preston IV
15 Jul	St Margaretsbury III	v	Welwyn Garden City IV
22 Jul	St Margaretsbury III	v	Hitchin IV
05 Aug	St Margaretsbury III	v	Stevenage V
19 Aug	St Margaretsbury III	v	Hertford IV
02 Sep	St Margaretsbury III	v	Ickleford III

Saturday 4th XI – Hertfordshire League Division-12-East

03 Jun	St Margaretsbury IV	v	Little Berkhamsted Sahibs II
17 Jun	St Margaretsbury IV	v	Bayford & Hertford II
01 Jul	St Margaretsbury IV	v	Ware II
08 Jul	St Margaretsbury IV	v	Bengeo II
29 Jul	St Margaretsbury IV	v	Old Owens III
12 Aug	St Margaretsbury IV	v	Harpenden VI
26 Aug	St Margaretsbury IV	v	North Mymms III

SPORTS

St Margaretsbury Football Club

The football season runs from August to April, so the 2022–23 season has now finished. However, we usually start our pre-season in early July, so have opportunities right now for football players and complete teams to approach us for Men's, Women's and Youth for next season.



Our Men's team had a tough one with our first season in the Eastern Counties Division One (south), but finished in a comfortable mid-table 10th position. The highlight was a 3–0 away win at league champions Frenford.

Our Women's team had been promoted two divisions into Division 1, so this season was going to be a challenge. But that challenge was met and exceeded with a fantastic performance that secured second place in their league. Their highlight was the 4–2 win against league champions Stotfold Women (Stotfold's only loss all season) after being 2–0 down at half-time! Stotfold Women won the league and St Margaretsbury secured second place... almost certainly securing promotion into the Premier Division next season.

Our Men's Senior team play in the Eastern Counties League (Step 6), U18 Men in the Southern Counties Floodlit Youth League, Women's team in the Beds & Herts League, with Youth teams in the Eastern Junior Alliance and Mid Herts Rural Minors League.

Last season we invested in the popular VEO system that allows us to film matches and use their analytical tools to improve team and player performances.

If you're interested in joining, please contact our Director of Football and Head of Youth, Tony Wild by email (tony.wild@aol.com) or call (07875701049).

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club



We are a friendly tennis club welcoming people of all ages and abilities with three all-weather courts, all of which have flood-lights allowing evening play. Our membership fees are very competitive. We hold regular social tennis sessions, hold competitive matches and regular coaching & training sessions that are free for members, coaching with our qualified LTA coach and regular social activity including BBQs, quiz nights, curry nights etc. We field teams in local competitive tennis leagues throughout the year, as well as internal club competitions for all standards.

We will be holding Open Days at the club this spring and summer, so please come along and try your hand at tennis. We also have a new Head Coach, Nicole, along with an exciting upcoming programme.

For more information, including a contacts page, see our website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/stmargaretsburytennis>.

ST MARGARETSBURY SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club provides sports facilities for the three villages. They host three member clubs: St Margaretsbury Football Club, St Margaretsbury Cricket Club and St Margaretsbury Tennis Club. They also have a function room (The Croft Room), which is fully licenced and available for hire. There is free parking on site with plenty of spaces.

For all enquiries please contact on 01920 870473 (club opening hours).

St Margaretsbury Sports and Social Club, The Recreation Ground, Stanstead Abbots, Herts SG12 8EH.

The Three Villages Magazine

POEMS BY PATRICIA SHEFFIELD

These two poems were written by a local Amwell lady, Patricia Sheffield, who subsequently became a resident at Willowthorpe. Pat was a children's nurse at Great Ormond Street. Pat rarely spoke of her nursing days, but the poem 'To a Daughter' was found by her sons, which vividly speaks of the feelings she still carried after helping to look after a child who was dying. The second poem (that is untitled) Patricia wrote to her father when her own mother had passed away.

TO A DAUGHTER

Dear Child,
Absurd to call you so, I know
And I am not possessive
But helping you confirmed
The bond a mother never loses.
The ward had special Christmas warmth
Accentuating joy
Of your triumphant moment
And only I was weeping
While you, my darling
Tired, serene, the centre of attention
Held tight your precious new born babe
Continuing love's circle

by Patricia Sheffield

[Untitled]

It should not have been an ordinary day
But remembering our faces, hard and flat
That had better been distorted, washed by tears
We let her go too calmly after all these years
It was a final parting, our true supportive friend
Why use the neighbours' voices, trivial cares
To cloak the sharp emotion she deserved
We denied our mutual comfort
Kept our feelings tight at bay
Why not support each other
On this her triumphant day

by Patricia Sheffield

RECIPE: RAISIN SCONES

I first made these with my Brownie pack and was surprised (as someone who doesn't feel like a natural baker) how easy it was, so a good summertime treat to make with the kids.

INGREDIENTS

250g self-raising flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
50g softened butter/margarine
2 tablespoons caster sugar
75g raisins
150ml (1/4 pint) milk (approx.)

METHOD

1. Pre-heat the oven to 220°C/Gas Mark 7 and prepare a tray with lightly floured baking paper.
2. Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl.
3. Rub in the fat until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
4. Stir in the sugar and raisins, then gradually add the milk to mix into a soft dough.
5. On a floured surface, roll out the dough to approximately 2cm thickness. Cut out (using a 5cm round cutter) and place on the prepared baking tray. The dough should make about 12.
6. Brush with milk then bake for 10 minutes until golden brown.
7. Leave to cool on a wire rack. Stored in an air-tight container, they will last for a good few days.



Anna Bond

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

DIRECTORY OF USEFUL NUMBERS

THE 3 CHURCHES BENEFICE

Priest in Charge

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115 / 07488914972

Lay Ministers

Mrs Elizabeth Goldsmith 01920 422065

Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

Mrs Rachel Melrose 01920 422092

Great Amwell with St Margarets

Organists: Mrs Jill Hall 01279 842328

Mrs Lynda Harrington 01992 422398

PCC Secretary: Mr Richard Mellor 01920 460474

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

Churchwardens: Mr Richard and

Mrs Margaret Mellor 01920 460474

Assistant Churchwardens: Mr Martin and

Mrs Sue Vaughan 01920 877779

Mr Brian Brace 01992 447845

Treasurer: Mr Richard Mellor 01920 460474

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Mrs Alex Richardson 01920 871391

St Mary the Virgin, St Margarets

Churchwarden: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

Treasurer: Mrs Lyn Paddon 01920 487717

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Stanstead Abbots

St Andrew, Stanstead Abbots

Organist: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

PCC Secretary: Mrs Michele Ross 01992 302279

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Michele Ross 01992 302279

Churchwardens: Mrs Janet Dance 01920 871262

Mrs Rosemary James 07730095370

Treasurer: Mr Edward Trower 07919003949

Baptism enquiries: Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115

Wedding enquiries: Mrs Lynne Griffiths 01920 460668

PARISH COUNCILS

Stanstead Abbots

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Sarah Neighbour 07943602877

Great Amwell

Parish Council Clerk: Mr Jeff Hughes

greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com

Stanstead St Margarets

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Christina Whellams 07422582172

SCHOOLS

Amwell View School and Specialist Sports

College, Stanstead Abbots 01920 870027

St Andrew's C of E (VC) Primary School,

Stanstead Abbots 01920 870097

St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School,

Great Amwell 01920 870135

CHURCH/PARISH HALLS

Great Amwell Parish Hall: Mrs E. Hawkins 01920 467927

Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall: Mrs Vicky Burt 07703402790

Wilshere Hall, St Andrew's Church:

Ms Maureen Freeman 01920 870632

NATIONAL & LOCAL HELPLINES

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Telephone Advice Service 111

Free 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Hotline 0808 2000 247

Samaritans (Freephone) 116 123

The Three Churches Foodbank Hub 07487350918

East Herts Citizens Advice Service 03444 111 444

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) 0800 328 0006

Anne Robson Helpline: Time to Talk 0808 801 0688

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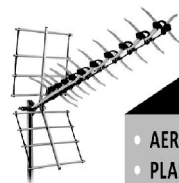
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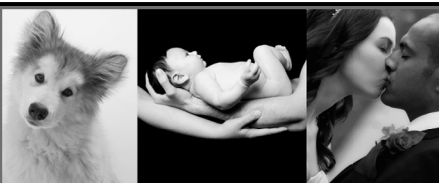
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HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY

Prevention First

You can receive instant police alerts about local crime, scams and crime prevention advice in Hertfordshire on the new OWL app.

No registration is needed. To get the app, search the App Store or Google Play for 'OWL crime alerts' or use the links below:



Google Play



App Store

Residents will receive alerts based on their postcode or current location.

The most important alerts such as a burglary, car crime, robbery or missing person appeal will be an instant notification and anything less urgent will be inside the app to be read more leisurely.

Users will also be able to see contact details for their local policing team, join other watches and contact police online or via the web chat facility.



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

PUZZLE ANSWERS (from Page 12)

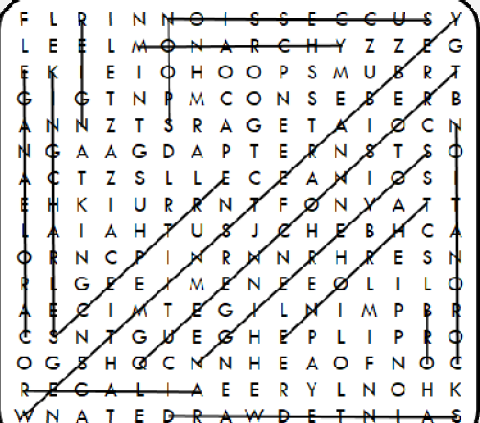
QUIZ

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Copper | 7. Kidney |
| 2. Vacuum | 8. Acoustics |
| 3. Rocks | 9. Tide levels |
| 4. Saturn | 10. Albert Einstein |
| 5. Low blood pressure | 11. Zero |
| 6. Energy or work | 12. Insulator |

RIDDLES

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. SWIMS | 3. A ton | 5. He was walking |
| 2. Seven | 4. The letter 'R' | |

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