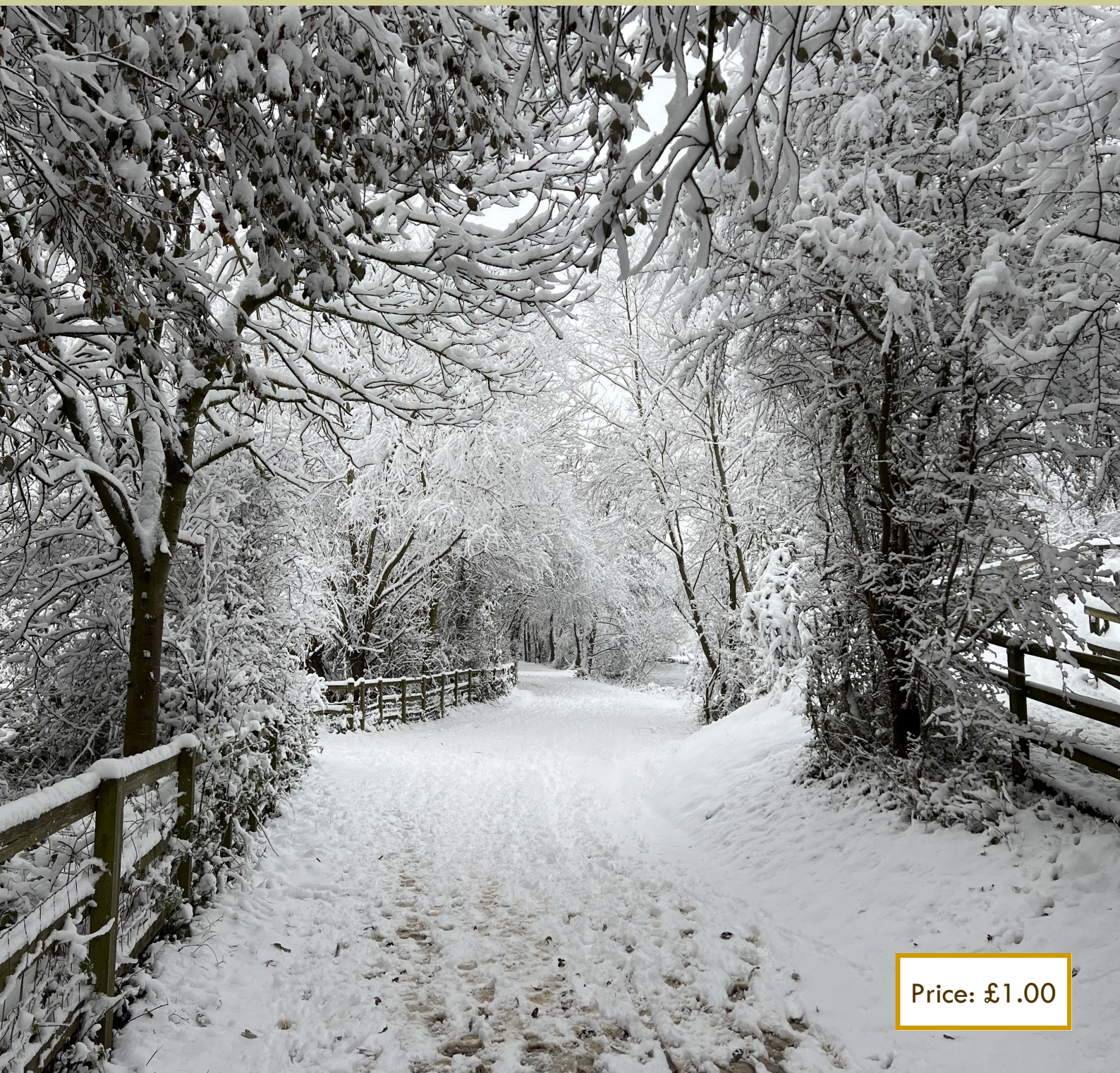


The Three Villages Magazine

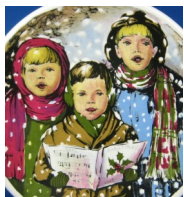
COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS



Price: £1.00

Issue 8

December 2023



Advent Carols

Sunday 3rd December
4pm at St James,
Stanstead Abbots

Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 9th &
Sunday 10th December
2–6pm at St Mary the
Virgin, St Margarets



Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 10th December
6.30pm at St John the Baptist,
Great Amwell

and

Sunday 17th December
6.30pm at St Andrew,
Stanstead Abbots



The Christmas Journey The Nativity Story Reimagined

Sunday 24th December
Starting 3pm at St Margarets Train
Station and ending at St Andrew,
Stanstead Abbots

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy Communion

Sunday 24th December
11pm at St Andrew,
Stanstead Abbots



Christmas Day Service

Monday 25th December
10.30am at St Mary the
Virgin, St Margarets



The 3 Churches Benefice

The 3 Churches Benefice invites you to come along with us
as we follow the star, journey to the manger, join the song
and come into the presence of Jesus Christ.

Visit www.3churches.net for more information.



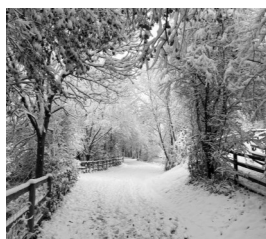
The Three Villages Magazine

COVERING GREAT AMWELL, ST MARGARETS AND STANSTEAD ABBOTTS

Issue 8

December 2023

From the Editor...



Cover: Snow at Amwell
Nature Reserve
© Eric Skilton

Welcome to the December 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 the next in our Local Historic Faces & Places series that, a Charity Focus on

Equine Table Top Sales and the winners of our Schools Christmas Bauble Design Competition and much more!

The magazine is issued quarterly with publication in March, June, September and December. If you would like to contribute to the 2024 issues, the deadlines are 8th January (March Issue), 5th April (June Issue), 5th July (September Issue) and 4th October (December Issue). Please send all submissions to print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

The photograph featured on the cover this time is by Eric Skilton, who has lived for 14 years in St Margarets. The image was taken last year at Amwell Nature Reserve after a heavy snowfall. If you would like to enter your work for the next cover, please send your photograph(s) to threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com. We are looking for seasonal images of the local area.

Continued thanks are offered to Willowthorpe Care Home, our generous 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 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

Christmas is a funny time of year; we carry so many memories of Christmas past, so much expectation of Christmas present and so many dreams of the future, and we hang them on one day in the calendar. 'I want everything to be perfect for Christmas!' We can be drawn into the Christmas of the TV commercials and think of it as all lights and laughter, and yet for so many it holds difficult memories, painful moments and the grief of loss and loneliness. Perhaps we need to remember some when, how and whys...

Christmas falls just after the winter equinox: the longest night for us, in the darkest time of the year. Its setting at this point in the calendar owes much to the early Church working to link this new religion with the older faiths and traditions of midwinter. Enculturation meant that the theme of Jesus's birth and the remembrance of the arrival of the 'Light of the World' happened in the darkest time of the year. Just when all is at its darkest, the light of hope is lit.



The schools are gearing up for their Nativity plays and we get ready for the excitement of sheep, shepherds and kings jostling on and off stage, a host of new tunes and small voices, all sharing the greatest story. But perhaps the song that connects with me these days is a modern carol called 'Thorns in the straw' by Graham Kendrick. It tells so beautifully Mary's story: a story of uncertainty, poverty and faith, which is both so bitter and so sweet. The chorus starts, 'And did she see there in the straw by his head a thorn'; a premonition of the sorrow and suffering that this child would see and endure, and that Mary would experience too. Woven into the story of his joyful birth is the knowledge and expectation of his death and resurrection.

I'm reminded of one of my favourite poems 'The Weaver', attributed to Benjamin Franklin. In it he talks of life as a weaving of different coloured threads: some joyful gold and silver moments, but with some dark threads woven through. There's an understanding that the dark contrast is part of the picture of our lives, and that in the end the presence of those threads, and their meaning and purpose, will be revealed by God.

Light in the darkness is the theme of Christmas: hope in difficult times. Amidst the bright lights and celebrations, there will be those who are weeping. May they know God's compassion and love through, and in, our care and concern for them.



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



The 3 Churches Benefice

Warm Welcome Spaces

COFFEE MORNING

The Wilshire Hall, St Andrew's Church
9.00–11.30am
Every Monday



COMMUNITY HUB DROP-IN

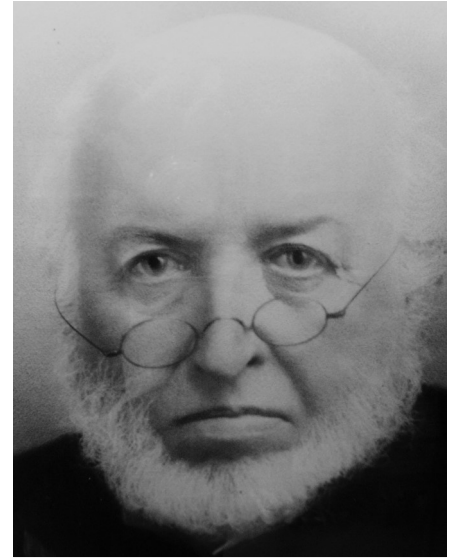
St Mary's Church, St Margarets
10.30–11.30am
Every Wednesday

LOCAL HISTORIC FACES & PLACES: RICHARD HUNT (1815–1896)

In the third of our series featuring folk who have left a significant heritage for our villages we come to Richard Hunt. He was a Victorian businessman and a contemporary of Thomas Buxton. In his time in Stanstead Abbots he made a substantial contribution of buildings to the village, but fire and demolition has meant that many no longer exist.

Richard was born in 1815 at Much Hadham where his father operated a windmill. We next hear of him in 1837 on his marriage to Ann Knight in Bishops Stortford. He is recorded again in 1841 when he is found running the watermill at Mardock. He was by then 25 years of age and had three male servants living in the same household. So business was good.

Sometime in the 1840s Richard appears to have inherited some land and property. So by 1851, aged 36, we find he has moved to The Mill House in Stanstead Abbots where he was employing 30 men spread across his business interests, including the Roydon Road watermill, his coal merchant trade and his barge owning concern. Quite an entrepreneur!



Richard Hunt (1815–1896)

As the 1850s progressed he became to be regarded as a man of considerable substance and a man of influence in this part of Hertfordshire. Unfortunately, in 1864, the large wooden watermill in Roydon Road burnt down and almost destroyed his home as well. He immediately set about building the currently existing replacement in brick, next to where the old one had stood.

Even as he was rebuilding his watermill he was investing in a new sizeable malting between the railway and the river close to Stanstead Lock, which was completed in 1866*. He was later to double the size of this very impressive malting, a good indication of his growing wealth. He was in 1875 to take up residence in the rather stately Stanstead Hall as more befitted his growing status in the local community.

While living at Stanstead Hall he was to build a 70-foot-high windmill on the banks of the Mill Stream in Glenmire. It was the second largest windmill of all types ever built in England: a rich man's indulgence and perhaps a reminder of his early days in Much Hadham.

By the beginning of the 1890s he was beginning to sell off his local properties and retire from business, and moved back to Much Hadham where he managed to build one more very large windmill before his death in 1896 at the age of 81.

A more detailed account of Richard Hunt's life can be found in an article on the Stanstead Abbots Local History Society website at: <http://salhs.org.uk/folders/hunt/hunt.pdf>.

* Richard Hunt's Abbey Maltings close to Stanstead Lock were to be destroyed by fire in the mid-1970s. Fortunately a developer had already drawn up detailed plans based on Richard Hunt's originals. This allowed the replacement residential building to capture the grandness of the original, including the attractive tower.

Rev'd Dr Bob Hunt and Stuart Moye



Roydon Road, The Mill, Stanstead Abbots



The Maltings roofline by
St Margarets Railway

The Three Villages Magazine

STOP THE QUARRY: AN UPDATE



Regulation 18 is complete, and Tarmac/Herts County Council are rewriting their plans so that previous concerns are mitigated (in this context mitigated means dismissed). The possible timeframes: December 2023 – Regulation 19 documentation; January 2024 – Public consultation process; May 2024 – Submission to the Secretary of State (Michael Gove); Late 2024 – Planning permission.

Once approval is given, apart from the hordes of construction lorries pouring onto the A414 at the same time as those working on Harlow North, you won't initially notice the quarrying operation as excavation starts in the farthest corner of the site. However,

work will rapidly move around to their main target, which is the back of Cats Hill, and you'll be surprised how far sand and sound can carry on the wind on a warm day.

I'll put a longer version of this on Facebook and will follow up as always once timings are confirmed. We are actively opposing the Regulation 19 process by commissioning expert reports to counter proposal put together by Tarmac and Herts County Council who appear to work very closely in step with each other.

We do realise that the odds are against us, but we can and must succeed in saving this beautiful historical landscape and stop Stanstead Abbots, Roydon and Hunsdon from becoming consumed by greater Harlow. Thus far we've managed to remove several areas from the development, but we need to achieve more, and could do with your help and ideas. Any donations to the gofund.me pages are extremely welcome, and all go directly towards the fight.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/SayNOtoQuarry>
or <https://www.stopthequarry.site/>.

Keep fighting!
Miles Dymock, Olives Farm

VACANCY: STANSTEAD ABBOTTS PARISH COUNCIL

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. We are looking for a member of the community who can volunteer some time each month to help support the work of the Parish Council.

What does a Parish Councillor do?

First, and most importantly, you would attend the Parish Council Meetings that are held once a month in the Ashlea Room in Stanstead Abbots Parish Hall. At these meetings we discuss many matters, but the primary responsibilities of the council are:

- * Looking after the environment of the Village, i.e. grass cutting, play areas, flower beds etc.
- * Improving the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors.
- * Administering an annual budget of £53,000 and must plan up to two years in advance.
- * Making comments on planning applications.
- * Monitoring the CCTV system in the village.
- * Providing the annual Christmas lights in the High Street.
- * Representing the views of the community.
- * Managing contractors working in the village on behalf of the Council.

Qualifications of a parish councillor

- * Must be over 18 years
- * Commonwealth or EU citizen
- * An elector
- * Resided in the locality or within three miles of it or occupied as an owner or tenant land or premises therein or has his principal place of work there

What do you get back?

- * You will have a real say in what is going on in Stanstead Abbots.
- * Meet other people in the community and be part of a team.
- * Put something back into your neighbourhood.
- * Have a better understanding of how a Parish Council works.
- * Help plan the village for the future and our children.

Your village needs you! If you are interested in serving your community on the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Council clerk Sarah Neighbour at clerk@stansteadabbottsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

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:

- * Great Amwell Parish Council co-opted David Colley to fill the vacant seat unfilled following the May 2023 local government elections;
- * A missing litter bin in Lower Road had been replaced by East Herts Council – this Council is responsible for emptying all litter bins within the parish. Should you experience an overflowing litter bin then please use the following link to notify that authority without delay: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/bins-waste-recycling/report-overflowing-or-full-litter-bins>.
- * A project to replace bus shelters on both sides of the A1170 in the vicinity of its junction with the Amwell Roundabout and, possibly, provide new ones outside Van Hage Garden Centre is progressing; and
- * Local police representatives attended a recent meeting and provided assurance that they were providing a visible presence within the parishes of Great Amwell, Stanstead Abbots and St Margarets. The local Police Community Support Officer is Megan Da Costa (megan.dacosta@herts.police.uk) and the local Police Constable is Dean Watson (dean.watson@herts.police.uk). The non-emergency telephone number to report incidents is 101.

More information 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 are pleased to report that the repairs on the bench located on the bridge by The Jolly Fisherman are now complete. The Parish Council would like to thank pupils (and staff) at Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College for all their help with completing the work.

The Parish Council are in the process of producing an action plan to show the projects and priorities that Councillors are working on in the coming months, and once available will be placed on the website: www.stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The Council also co-opted Cllr Robert Bryant at their September meeting and welcome him on board. This now leaves just one vacancy on the Council, so if you are interested in joining, please contact the Clerk: clerk@stansteadstmargaretsparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Stanstead Abbots Parish Council

20 mph Consultation: The parish council recently put some banners up in the village encouraging residents to respond to the recent Hertfordshire County Council consultation for 20mph zones in the village and other traffic calming measures. The response was positive, and we understand the threshold for responses was met and we are waiting on further information.

Funding for Playground: The council has successfully secured some funding from East Herts District Council to make some improvements to the High Street playground and Meadow. The funding will be used for some extra bins, 2 new children's buddy benches, new surface for the entrance to the playground, some new signage, new fencing for the outdoor gym and fitting of a new Parish Council Notice Board.

Christmas Lights: Cllr George Cassidy has been working hard to get everything in place for the Christmas Lights in the High Street. The cost of the lights is around £6000 a year for 20 motifs, which is one of the councils' largest expenses, but we know how much residents enjoy them and they will be lighting up the High Street from Friday 1st December.

The Three Villages Magazine

CHARITY FOCUS: EQUINE TABLE TOP SALES



Gill, Jennie, Rebecca and Kerri

My name is Gail; I organise and run Equine Table Top Sales to raise money for small charities. I am lucky to have help and support from friends: Kerri, Stuart, Jennie, Rebecca, Annie and Gill. We promote the sales on Facebook, Instagram and putting posters up around the area. We do all this in our spare time as we all work either full or part time, but it's always for a good cause, good fun, something we all enjoy, we will always have a smile on our face.

To date we have raised a total £22,057.50 for 27 different charities. Including Murphy's Army Purple Poppy Campaign, who we support every year, raising money for the many animals lost in service and those who serve us today.

Equine Table Top Sales started as a regular car boot sale for new and used equestrian equipment. Since then several non-horsey small businesses have joined us,

some of whom come back regularly. Our events are held outside in the summer at Widford Playing Fields, SG12 8SH and indoors in the winter at Albury Village Hall, SG11 2JD.

We run a stall selling homemade cakes, sausage rolls, biscuits, sweets, snack, hot and cold drinks, and a raffle. We have some amazing prizes, donated by friends, family and supporters, which really helps bump up the money raised for charity. This support is greatly appreciated.

We have previously had pony rides, bouncy castles and tack security marking. More recently we introduced a fun dog show, which has been a huge success, and beautiful rosettes and prizes have been donated for the winners. We will continue the dog show; it's a lot of fun and raises more money for charity.



Albury Village Hall (winter months)



Me (Gail) holding the sign, which is sponsored by Universal Signs

We've been very lucky to be supported by Universal Signs, Phosco, Armadillo Embroidery, Selectaglaze, Jimmy Riddles toilet Hire and Black Dog. We have also been gifted money, which has enabled us to purchase essential equipment: our gazebo to protect our homemade produce, that was kindly donated by Rod, one of our regular supporters; and a shed to enable us to store our equipment, tables, and various other essential items that we need.

We thank everyone for their continual support, which allows us to keep going and keep raising money for these small charities who desperately need help.

Every penny of the money we raise goes to charity. Please come along and support us. Everyone is welcome!

Gail Harvey, Equine Table Top Sales Organiser

SCHOOLS CHRISTMAS BAUBLE COMPETITION

After the success of our Christmas art competition last year, we once again asked the schools if they would like to take part in a Christmas bauble design competition. We were blown away with the creativity of the designs and found it really hard to pick the winners! Congratulations go to...

WINNERS

1. Phebe, Year 2 (age 6), St John the Baptist School
2. Edith, Nursery (age 4), St Andrew's School
3. Alice, Year 5 (age 9), St John the Baptist School
4. Hattie, Year 4 (age 9), St Andrew's School

RUNNERS UP

5. Summer, Year 6 (age 10), St Andrew's School
6. Orson, Year 2 (age 6), St John the Baptist School
7. Niamh, Year 1 (age 5), St Andrew's School
8. Thomas, Year 3 (age 7), St John the Baptist School

The winning designs can be seen on the back cover of the magazine. They will also be on display at the upcoming Christmas Tree Festival at St Margarets' Parish Church on Hoddesdon Road (see below for the details).

Thank you to everyone who took part in the competition. You did yourselves and your schools proud!

CONGRATULATIONS

Christmas Tree Festival

**St Margarets' Parish Church
2-6pm**

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th December

FREE ENTRY

**Come and see the beautiful trees decorated by
local groups, organisations and businesses**

Festive fun for all the family!

★ **Seasonal Refreshments** ★ **Raffle** ★

Any proceeds will go towards the work and upkeep of the church



The 3 Churches Benefice

The Three Villages Magazine

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: POM'S SWEET SHOP



It is always great to welcome a new business to our three villages! With the arrival of a new sweet shop on Stanstead Abbots High Street, we just had to find out more...

Such a pretty little shop has opened in Stanstead Abbots High Street – and when I first saw it, I misread its name as Pam's Sweet Shop, which shows how easy it is to make a mistake. No, it is Pom's Sweet Shop because the entrepreneurs who thought up the idea are named Pomfrett!

The family are local villagers who have lived in Hunsdon and then Roydon, and both their daughters attend John Warner School. In fact the younger daughter, Chelsea, most efficiently managed the till and relieved me of a surprisingly small amount of money for my initial purchase of 200 grams of butter mint sweets, which her mother carefully weighed out from the screw topped jar – one of 53 on the shelves behind the counter.

The entire stock is amazing – whatever specialist sweet you require can be supplied – gluten-free, vegetarian, vegan, sugar-free. East Herts Council in partnership with the Food Standards Agency have awarded Pom's Sweet Shop with the highest Food Hygiene Rating at Level 5. This involves an immense amount of paperwork recording 'ins' and 'outs' and 'where-froms'.

I returned to ask questions for an article for this magazine and Tanya was delighted to tell me that the whole idea was on the spur of the moment: the whole place was acquired, decorated, stocked and up-and-running in less than four weeks! On the day it opened there were more than 700 potential customers patiently waiting their turn to be served. What a fantastic achievement!



While I was waiting for my next 200 grams of sweets to be weighed, I was amazed to hear a lady from Hertford Heath requesting a quote for children's 'goody bags' for a film show in the future, and another lady was waiting for me to finish before discussing some special decorations for the shop. There was also a raffle with at least three prizes. Pom's Sweet Shop is a real hive of activity.

I didn't dare look at the shelves of chocolate bars and treats – too tempting!

I would encourage anyone to go along, if you haven't already, to take a look at the amazing selection of sweet treats. We wish Pom's Sweet Shop a big welcome and all the best for the future.

Rosemary Imroth



UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



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

Our first half term has simply flown past. We began with 'Meet The Teacher' sessions for parents to visit each new class, coffee mornings for our new Nursery and Reception parents, and we held a curriculum evening to describe to parents and carers how we teach phonics and reading so that they can support their child confidently at home. All of these events were well attended and through them we shared our school's key objectives this year. One of these areas is a focus on reading, as fluent reading is such a cornerstone of all learning. Indeed, we have begun the mantra 'Remember, Reading Makes you Smart!', and have reviewed and refreshed how we teach reading in every year group. Our school website outlines key ways in which we teach reading <https://standrews323.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/english-2/>.

To help us further we have invited a Hertfordshire English specialist to visit our school – who commented on our high embedded expectations across the school, and the enthusiasm with which our children talk about their reading and reading lessons.

We have also been pushing forward with our OPAL (Outside Play and Learning) initiative – where we are enhancing the outside learning and play opportunities for our children. Bikes and scooters have been introduced and a new stage for outside performances has been built. Engagement in play activities have blossomed and we have happy children returning to class after breaks and lunchtimes. What could be better?



The wider curriculum, of course, has not been forgotten, and trips and special events occur on a weekly basis. Just some of these have included: a Year 5 and Year 6 interactive author talk with S. F. Said, author of *Varjak Paw* and *Tyger*; a visit from the 'Life Bus'; an International Languages day; the Year 3 visit to Celtic Harmony camp; the launching of our Harvest Fundraising activities; celebration of Black History Month; and many, many more.

We are now looking forward to our school Nativities and Christmas events in the second half term.

Helen Gillingham, Headteacher



THE THREE VILLAGES

Launched at the end of 2021 with the first print magazine published back in March 2022, over the last few years The Three Villages has been working hard to provide local news, become a useful resource, support local businesses, celebrate our community spirit and to showcase local talent.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

If you haven't already, do subscribe to the News & Events Blog on our website www.thethreevillages.com



The Three Villages Magazine

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



St John the Baptist CE VA Primary School

Our academic year has got off to a really good start here at St John's.

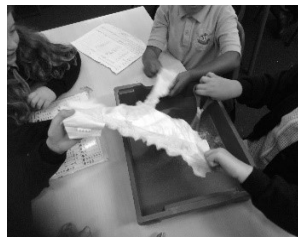
We welcomed our new Reception children and their parents with a service at St John the Baptist Church with Rev'd Sarah. Our Year 6 Worship Team helped settle them in and each child was presented with a special book. We were back in church at the start of October to celebrate our Harvest Festival. Children donated gifts of food to the local Foodbank and shared their learning about the Christian story of creation.



In September our Year 5 and 6 children went on their residential trip to PGL Liddington, enjoying 6 days together. The children had the opportunity to abseil, canoe, build rafts, zip-wire, orienteer, develop survival skills, buggy build, climb,



complete the Jacob's Ladder challenge and develop their self-help skills. We had a great time together. The adults attending were very impressed with the children's resilience, perseverance and the way they lived out our school vision and values in supporting each other.



The children have been enjoying our newly redesigned curriculum, grappling with deep questions and exploring new concepts and experiences. The children in Year 2 have been learning about the different properties of materials, and investigated the question 'What materials would make the best nappy?'. Having dissected a nappy to see how it is made and tested materials to find out how absorbent they are, the children worked in groups to construct their

own nappy. They were able to explain whether their nappy would be successful.

Teams from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 participated in a Girls' Football Festival at Presdales School. Some of those playing are experienced players, but for many it was the first time they had played in a match. I was very impressed with the way they all encouraged and supported each other, coping with taking penalties and having the responsibility as goalie in trying to save the penalties. All the girls had a great experience and are eager to have more opportunities to compete. I am writing this article the day after we received our SIAMS inspection. This is an additional statutory inspection for Church of England and Methodist Schools. Whilst we have yet to receive our report, we are happy it will reflect our own positive self-evaluation of the school. The inspector was very impressed with the ability of our pupils to articulate their opinions on deep and difficult issues, respect the opinions of others and the ambition they showed in the progress they wanted to make.

Lydia Hunt
Headteacher

UPDATES FROM OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS



Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College

Harvest Festival

On Wednesday 27th September, Amwell View School celebrated their Upper School Harvest Festival. During the autumn term many of the pupils have been focusing on the themes of Harvest, Festivals and Communities in their Religious Education and Art lessons.

In preparation for the Harvest Festival Assembly, each class had to create a model of a fruit or vegetable ready to bring and display to the other classes. Some pupils created their own design plans using symbols to choose how they wanted to decorate their fruit or vegetable. Class 9 made a combine harvester out of cardboard boxes, Class 10 made a pumpkin using tissue paper, Class 11 made a display of glittery potatoes, Class 12 made a beetroot with multi-coloured leaves, Students 1 made a giant courgette, Students 2 made a carrot using papier-mâché and the Community Class made a blackberry from paper plates.

During the assembly each class took it in turns to present their vegetable creations and then sang a selection of Harvest themed assembly songs together, including 'Down to the Allotment', 'Bean Harvest', 'Apple Pie', 'Big Red Combine Harvester' and 'The Harvest Rock and Roll'. Lots of the pupils enjoyed coming up to the front of the assembly to dance, sing and use Makaton sign language together as a school community.

Janet Warrington, School Business Manager



ANNE ROBSON HELPLINE

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone.

Call us on **0808 801 0688** – we have time to talk.

Calls are free and confidential.



The Three Villages Magazine

PUZZLES FROM QUIZMASTER CATHAL BRENNAN

QUIZ: SPORTS

1. What is the tallest fence on the Grand National course?
2. The Crow's Nest can be found at which golf course?
3. How long in feet is a football crossbar?
4. In which sport do competitors refer to 'catching a crab'?
5. Which two Formula 1 drivers have both won the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year twice?
6. England won the 2003 Rugby World Cup thanks to an iconic drop goal from Jonny Wilkinson. How many points did England score in that game?
7. Which European football club plays its home games at Philips Stadion?
8. How many balls are on a snooker table at the start of a frame?
9. Darts player Peter Wright opened up the defence of his PDC World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace dressed as which Christmas character?
10. Exactly how long in miles is a marathon?
11. What sport is called 'The Sport of Kings'?
12. In karate what colour belt comes right before black?

WORDSEARCH: WINTER

E L R E I N D E E R F O E C I F
L E E Y C F A L L E N C H S E Y
U V W T E R H E H P C H U S R R
Y I O H D E C E M B E R T E Y A
W N O E T E E L C I C I C V C U
E G L K K Z A W T E V S E O S R
H C L I R I L I C E T T Y L S B
G N I T A N R E B I H M V G T E
L N E G K G U L J M T A B H D F
O A S J N L L A B O N S T S R A
R M I S A Y M Y H E E L L I A E
A N S E D N E B C L L I K P Z R
C I T T G U U L N I P P Y O Z G
O A S I Q C N A H E R E T T I B
R R G H L I A C R R Y L N O L H
N A M W O N S D O Y A C I H B T

FREEZING
SNOWMAN
FALL
DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS
ICICLE
WHITE
CHILL
JANUARY

ICY
SNOWBALL
HIBERNATING
YULE
WOOLLIES
NIPPY
BLIZZARD
FEBRUARY
REINDEER

BITTER
FESTIVE
GLOVES
ICE

1% FUN

1. What is the only letter of the alphabet missing from this extremely tricky and devious quiz question?
2. What is the first number that when spelled out has its letters in alphabetical order?
3. In sport, if being FT gets you GD and being SD gets you SR, what does being TD get you?
4. Why is FOQZ the odd one out in these set of letters?
BCDEGPTV, AJK, FOQZ, IY
5. What are the next two letters in this sequence?
T, N, E, C, R, E, P, E
6. What five-letter word becomes more than 12 when you add a letter to the end of it and 13 if you put six letters before it?
7. Why is FACETIOUS the odd one out in this group of words?
EDUCATION, TAMBOURINE, FACETIOUS, DISCOURAGE
8. What number between 1 and 100 has the most syllables when said out loud?
9. What can be placed between 3 and 7 to produce a number bigger than 3 but smaller than 7?
10. A is the first letter in the alphabet that looks the same in the mirror. What is the second?
11. Which word in the question below sounds like the odd one out?
Why are you out?
12. What is the next letter in this sequence?
F, E, I, R

MEET A LOCAL: ANDREA THOMAS

Andrea Thomas has been working part time at All Nations Christian College, at Easneve, since 2006. She was originally there as a student, with her husband, before going to work as a volunteer in Nepal for a Christian medical mission. Since 2006, Andrea and her husband have worked for both organisations and divide their time between the two countries, roughly 50–50. Curious to know more, we asked Andrea to answer a few questions about herself and her life in the villages...

How long have you lived locally? What is your connection to the villages?

Since 2006, whenever we were back in the UK, we lived on-site at the college but, in 2017, we got together with some friends and bought a house in the village. We attend two churches (in Watford and Harrow) that support our work in Nepal; however, we do also like to worship at St Andrew's Church from time-to-time.

We started to rent one of the allotments opposite the church at the end of 2017 and manage the plot with a friend, who also used to work at the college. The allotment system has been operating for centuries and was originally set up to help those without much land to grow their own food. Allotments continue today for anyone who needs the food or those who just love to be in the great outdoors. They are great places to meet interesting and like-minded people, and to share in the ups and downs of being a grower.

Three years ago (having been inspired by a friend of ours) I contacted the local Foodbank to see if we could share some of the harvest. I've always loved the biblical notion of 'gleaning': sharing the abundance of our produce with those less fortunate. This is one of the principles behind the giving and I'm very grateful to all those who have contributed. It's a privilege for us to be able to support The 3 Churches Foodbank Hub and I encourage others to do likewise.



Where is your favourite place to eat locally?

The Village Café feels like the heart of the village and is the place we frequent the most. But we've also loved our visits to Taste of the Taj, Khunnai Thai, Sea Ways and, of course, all three pubs. We are very blessed to have such a range of options on one street!

What is your favourite local shop?

I love the Co-op – always there when you need that essential 'something'!

What is your favourite book/film?

Far too hard to answer! The Bible is vital to my daily life but there have, of course, been many fictional or reference books that have impacted my life.

What do you love about your work?

I have a bit of an eclectic mix of training, skills and experiences, and I love the fact that I've been able to bring these together to help others prepare for living and working cross-culturally, and in supporting the work of an amazing organization that serves the poor and marginalized in Nepal. Like any job, my work has had its ups and downs, but I consider it a privilege to be able to do this kind of work and I'm enormously blessed by the generosity of those who faithfully support what we do.

What is your favourite thing about living in the villages?

The combination of it being a small, cosy village, but packed with so much; an amazing high street, beautiful countryside, great neighbours, school, church community, allotments – and I'm close to where I work, in a wonderful place with an incredible heritage.

The Three Villages Magazine

REGULAR CLUBS, GROUPS AND MEETINGS IN THE THREE VILLAGES

1st Stanstead Abbotts 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 Abbotts & St Margarets Scout Group: Age groups as above. All groups meet at Scout HQ, Marsh Lane, Stanstead Abbotts 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 Abbotts Parish Hall. Transport can be arranged. Contact: 07850 458366 (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 Abbotts 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 Abbotts). 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 Abbotts 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 583256 or email saphttc@yahoo.com – or just come along!

Carpet Bowls Club: Our Carpet Bowls club meets every Tuesday from 7pm in Stanstead Abbotts 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 / 07899 861297 or 01920 870527).

Bell Ringing at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell: We meet every Thursday at 7.30pm until 9.00pm. A new skill for all ages to stimulate the brain and keep you fit. Just come along or contact Frances Adams 07876 496654/fmadams50@yahoo.co.uk.

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

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

Before the 15th century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads.

The word poppyhead comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples.

The carved figures can represent almost anything. Some are of flowers or fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels however meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven. You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St Mary's, Hatfield Broad Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints: with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'. Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature. In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell! Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on either the feedback page on our website (www.hundredparishes.org.uk) or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665).

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Photographs

1. Hatfield Broad Oak: a bull representing St Luke
2. Wendens Ambo: beast
3. Linton: scribe and angel
4. Ickleton: St Michael weighing souls



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR



Do you enjoy singing for fun?

Come and join the choir at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell
on Saturday mornings from 10:00 to 11:00

We are now practising for the Carol Service on 10th December



Please join us. No audition necessary

Everyone welcome!

Just come along or contact Frances Adams 07876496654



'MAYFLOWER' DESCENDANTS AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, GREAT AMWELL

On Sunday 3rd September at St John the Baptist Church, Great Amwell, a memorial to Richard and Elizabeth Warren was unveiled by the Bishop of Hertford, the Rt Rev'd Dr Jane Mainwaring.



Richard Warren, about whom little is known, and Elizabeth Walker (born 1583) were married in the church in 1610. Richard was a city merchant and believed to have lived in Greenwich. Elizabeth lived in the parish of Great Amwell. Elizabeth's father Augustine and stepmother, Mary, both died in 1614 and are buried in Great Amwell churchyard. Richard was one of the Pilgrim Fathers and a financier of the expedition, who left Plymouth on the 'Mayflower' in 1620. Elizabeth and her five daughters followed him to the New World three years later on board 'Anne', after Richard had established himself. Her daughters were Mary, Ann, Sarah, Elizabeth and Abigail. They had two sons, Nathaniel and Joseph before Richard Warren died in 1628. His widow, in a very male dominated society, became a successful and notable business woman, living until 1673, reaching 90 years of age.



Famous persons alleged to be related to the Warrens, include Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President of the USA.; actors Orson Welles and Richard Gere; singer Taylor Swift; author Ernest Hemmingway and poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.



The memorial plaque was sponsored by The Warren Cousins from America, a large organisation of Richard's and Elizabeth's descendants in the USA, fifteen of whom were present at the ceremony, including their president, Marty Beerman and his wife Jane. The service was conducted by the Priest in Charge of Great Amwell with St Margarets and Stanstead Abbots, the Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest. Richard Pickering from America dressed in a costume of the early 17th Century. The day started with refreshments, a tour of the ancient parish of Great Amwell, followed by a walk around historic Ware. Lunch and tea were served in the church.

St John the Baptist Church is on the Walsingham Way pilgrimage trail and has a tradition of welcoming pilgrims. It is a beautiful church and well worth a visit. There are many points of interest, including that in the churchyard, athlete Harold Abrahams is buried, a successful Olympian who was celebrated in the 1981 film 'Chariots of Fire', produced by David Puttnam.

Richard Mellor, Churchwarden at St John the Baptist, Great Amwell

Photographs

1. The Warren Cousins, who visited the church on 3rd September 2023.
2. Jane Beerman, Marty Beerman (President of The Warren Cousins), with the Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest and Churchwardens Richard and Margaret Mellor.
3. Marty Beerman addressing the congregation, the Bishop of Hertford, the choir and the Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest.
4. Richard Pickering in 17th Century costume with the unveiled plaque.



MONEY SAVING TIPS FOR WINTER

This time of year can be a financial strain for many people, so here are some money saving tips that will help make ends meet this winter...

Water

If you have a water meter, there are some obvious ways to save money:

- * Turn the tap off! Don't leave the tap running when you clean your teeth, wash your hands or do the washing up.
- * Use a bowl when you wash up. A bowl holds less water and the washing up water can be repurposed to water plants or to flush the toilet.

Electricity

Don't leave things on stand-by. Switch things off at the wall if they're not in use, because they are still taking energy. It's called 'vampire energy', and you're paying for it!

Experts say the most expensive items are the tumble dryer and the kettle. So use a flask to save excess hot water, either for a hot drink later, or to put back in the kettle as a starter when boiling more.

They say that it costs more to run your freezer half-full and recommend putting crumpled newspapers in to reduce running costs. There are better alternatives:

- * Things like a plastic bottle of milk or sliced bread/rolls can be frozen to defrost and use later.
- * End bits/left over cheese – don't chuck it! Grate (by hand) or slice it for convenience and defrost it in packs.
- * Raid the big grocery shops near the end of the day, for reduced-price foods and freeze them. There are real bargains to be had.
- * Batch cook things you can pack into portions and freeze. Using a slow cooker/pressure cooker is more energy efficient.

Christmas lights are just for the tree? No! If you have a child who is afraid of the dark, string Christmas lights up to give a reassuring gentle glow, rather than leave a bedroom light on. If you turn them off in daylight, a pack of batteries will last months.

Heating

Make sure that your heating is working properly and efficiently. Boiler services and repairs should be done by a professional gas engineer, but carrying out basic maintenance yourself could save you a call-out fee and shave pounds off your fuel bills. Check and bleed radiators as needed and check your boiler's pressure.

The NHS recommends heating your home to at least 18°C. If your thermostat is set any higher, consider reducing the temperature to save money. Keeping a consistent temperature this way is more energy efficient than turning it on and off.

To save on heating, make sure your home is as insulated as possible:

- * Run your hand round doors and windows to find where draughts come in and heat (and money) go out. The cheapest way to stop draughts round doors is to cut strips of cardboard and use map pins to pin them inside the door edge. If you have a spare blanket or cloth, try fixing it at the door, as extra insulation.
- * Put insulation film on windows.
- * Attach a sheet or cloth to the inside of curtains (especially if unlined) as a double insulation.



Amanda Haywood

SPORTS

In Focus: St Margaretsbury Football Club

A Promising Future Shaped by History and Ambition



St Margaretsbury Football Club has a rich history founded in the heart of a Hertfordshire village community in 1894. From its humble beginnings to the present day, the Club has consistently evolved to embrace challenges and opportunities. This season heralds in a fresh era with a new Chairman and joint First Team managers, alongside the establishment of a Soccer School for young Boys and Girls that nurtures budding local talent.

We welcome Gavin Wood as Club Chairman. With a passion for football and an understanding of the Club's core values, Gavin is determined to steer St Margaretsbury towards a path that will support success. While his experience managing in our youth set-up provides valuable insights, his positive mentality made him a perfect fit for the Club's development aspirations.

With a Club-wide strategy in place, St Margaretsbury FC boasts not only a thriving First Team, but also a Reserve Team, a Women's Team and a Youth set-up spanning from U7 to U16. The Club has introduced the VEO camera and analytics system to improve player performance, and that holistic approach cultivates talent at every level, emphasizing the importance of player development and nurturing the benefits of a positive Football Club mentality.

Another exciting development unfolds at St Margaretsbury with the re-establishment of the Soccer School. Catering to Boys and Girls from 3 to 8 years in age, these coaching-focused sessions aim to instil a love for the beautiful game. The children are encouraged to develop their skills in a non-competitive environment, while embracing the values of teamwork, discipline and fair play.

Ex-Spurs Player Luke Steel, who sadly suffered a career-ending football injury, has since built up his own successful youth academy and has partnered with our Soccer School to prepare two U7s sides ready for the 24/25 season to complement the existing youth teams. It offers a pathway for children, moving from fun non-competitive to competitive football to achieve their best.

Another change is the joint managerial duo of Paul Holding and Shane ('Bambo') Bambridge taking charge of the First Team, injecting fresh ideas and strategies to unlock the team's full potential.

As St Margaretsbury FC embraces the future, rooted in its storied past, the Club embraces the challenges both on and off the pitch. With a determined leadership team and a growing youth set-up, the pathway is being set to build a foundation that supports positive outcomes.

Gary Stock
Programme Editor, St Margaretsbury FC

SPORTS

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club

Meet our new Head Coach

Nicole is an LTA Level 3 qualified coach with 4 years of coaching experience. She has played a lot of competitive tennis and has been lucky enough to represent the county and play for Hertfordshire.

Nicole has inspired players of all ages and abilities to love the game of Tennis and get the most out of their potential. Her knowledge and enthusiasm towards the sport has helped her coaching career thrive and she cannot wait to meet you to share her knowledge and expertise.

Nicole will be running her coaching sessions every Thursday. She is available for 1-2-1 and group coaching sessions.

The group coaching timetable is as follows:

9:30–10:30am	Rusty Rackets Coffee Morning
4:00–5:00pm	Mini Development (4–10yrs)
5:00–6:00pm	Junior Development (10–17yrs)
6:00–7:00pm	Rusty Rackets
7:00–8:00pm	Dynamic Doubles



For more information and bookings please contact Nicole directly at nicolebtatenniscoaching@outlook.com or telephone 07504 144324.

St Margaretsbury Cricket Club

The season has come to an end with all the teams enjoying some excellent matches and some great results achieved.

Formed in 1737 under the name Stanstead Abbots Cricket Club, St Margaretsbury Cricket Club is located on Station Road and have two of the nicest grounds in the local area offering cricket for all ages and abilities. Games are played at home every Saturday during the summer. The club fields four senior XIs on a Saturday, which all compete in the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League. There are also Sunday friendly matches. We also have a Ladies XI playing fixtures on a Sunday who are very keen to get some new members to come along. Lastly, the club also has a highly successful junior section, which fields teams from Under-9 to Under-17 age groups in the Hertfordshire Junior Leagues.



For more details, including fixtures and results, see their website <http://stmcc.org.uk/>, email info@stmcc.org.uk or call 01920 870473.

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

KEEPING WELL IN THE WINTER MONTHS



As the winter season sets in, it's essential to prioritise the wellbeing of our elderly loved ones, who are more vulnerable to health challenges during this time. Cold weather brings an increased risk of flu, pneumonia and depression, along with other serious concerns like heart attacks and strokes. Older people often have weaker immune systems, making them more susceptible to illnesses in winter, and pre-existing health conditions can worsen due to colder conditions.

There are many easy ways to ensure that our elderly loved ones stay warm, well and healthy during winter:

- * **Keeping Homes Warm:** Ensure the heating system is in good working order, seal any drafts and heat only necessary spaces to save energy.
- * **Layer Up:** When heading outdoors, dress in cosy layers to trap warmth close to the body.
- * **Stay Vaccinated:** Keep up with vaccinations, including annual flu shots and COVID-19 boosters.
- * **Minimise Exposure:** Try to avoid contact with anyone presenting flu-like symptoms.
- * **Maintain a Healthy Diet:** Incorporate warm, nutritious foods like soups and stews into your diet, staying hydrated with warm drinks.
- * **Stay Active and Social:** If able, engage in moderate activity such as short walks to generate body heat, promote circulation and maintain a good mood.

If additional support is needed, reach out to your local GP for medical care, vaccinations and guidance. Support from your community is always essential – family, friends, and community groups can be relied on for assistance and companionship. Respite care at a local care home is also an option for those requiring extra support; they provide 24/7 inclusive care in a warm environment.

B&M Care provide support and guidance to our local communities (see: <https://www.bmcare.co.uk/our-homes/>), so please contact us if you need using our dedicated customer support team on 0333 234 1975 (available 9am–5pm (Monday–Friday) or via email to info@bmcare.co.uk for any questions and advice regarding the care that B&M Care can offer a loved one.

Laura-Jane Hughes, B&M Care (www.bmcare.co.uk)

RECIPE: EASY MINCE PIES

I love homemade mince pies, but also love an easy bake, so I found this 'unbelievably easy' mince pie recipe to try!

INGREDIENTS

225g cold butter, diced
350g plain flour
100g golden caster sugar
280g mincemeat
1 small egg, beaten
icing sugar, to dust



METHOD

1. To make the pastry, rub the butter into the flour, then mix in the golden caster sugar and a pinch of salt.
2. Combine the pastry into a ball – don't add liquid – and knead it briefly. The dough will be fairly firm, like shortbread dough. You can use the dough immediately, or chill for later.

3. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/Gas Mark 6. Line 18 holes of two 12-hole patty tins, by pressing small walnut-sized balls of pastry into each hole.
4. Spoon the mincemeat into the pies. Take slightly smaller balls of pastry than before and pat them out between your hands to make round lids, big enough to cover the pies.
5. Top the pies with their lids, pressing the edges gently together to seal – you don't need to seal them with milk or egg as they will stick on their own. Will keep frozen for up to one month.
6. Brush the tops of the pies with the beaten egg. Bake for 20 mins until golden. Leave to cool in the tin for 5 mins, then remove to a wire rack. To serve, lightly dust with the icing sugar. Will keep for three to four days in an airtight container.

[Source: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/unbelievably-easy-mince-pies>]

Anna Bond

DIRECTORY OF USEFUL NUMBERS

THE 3 CHURCHES BENEFICE

Priest in Charge

Rev'd Dr Sarah Forrest 01920 870115 / 07488 914972

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 07730 095370

Treasurer: Mr Edward Trower 07919 003949

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 07943 602877

Great Amwell

Parish Council Clerk: Mr Jeff Hughes

greatamwellpc@virginmedia.com

Stanstead St Margarets

Parish Council Clerk: Ms Christina Whellams 07422 582172

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 07703 402790

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 07487 350918

East Herts Citizens Advice Service 03444 111 444

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) 0800 328 0006

Anne Robson Helpline: Time to Talk 0808 801 0688

If you would like to add a number to this directory, please email print.threevillagesmagazine@gmail.com.

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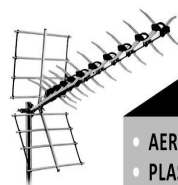
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The Walled Garden
grows organic vegetables and
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Since March 2018 we have had
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You can receive instant police alerts about local crime, scams and 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



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(out-of-hours answerphone)

Volunteers receive 50 pence per mile for taking clients to essential health and social appointments.



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PUZZLE ANSWERS (from Page 12)

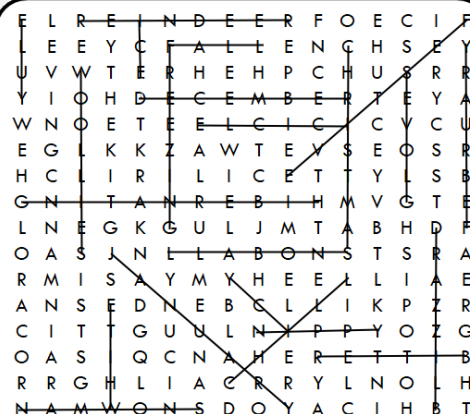
QUIZ

1. The Chair
2. Augusta
3. 24
4. Rowing
5. Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill
6. 20
7. PSV Eindhoven
8. 22 (including the white)
9. The Grinch
10. 26.2
11. Polo
12. Brown

1% FUN

1. J
2. 40
3. Be (bronze)
4. FOQZ don't rhyme
5. NO (one percent backwards)
6. Dozen(s) and Bakers Dozen
7. The vowels are in alphabetical order
8. 77
9. A decimal point
10. H
11. Out (doesn't sound like a letter)
12. H (F is the 1st letter in first, E is the 2nd letter in second... H is the 5th letter in fifth)

WORDSEARCH



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Willowthorpe

Stanstead Abbots, Hertfordshire

Formerly a private country house, Willowthorpe is situated in the centre of the charming and picturesque Village of Stanstead Abbots. Set in 5 acres, the building has been tastefully extended and enjoys an exclusive riverside location along the banks of the River Lea.



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5th



2nd



3rd



6th



7th



4th



8th

